***Welcome to 8th Grade Physical Science***

***Teacher: Mr. Johnson***

***Course Description:*** We will be studying Physical Science this year using the Georgia Standards of Excellence. In science, the standards have two aspects: The Characteristics of Science, which deal with the processes of investigation, and the Content Standards, that provide information about the topics. It is important to learn both aspects to be successful in science.

Science consists of a way of thinking and investigating, as well a growing body of knowledge about the natural world. To become literate in science, students need to possess sufficient understanding of fundamental science content knowledge, the ability to engage in the science and engineering practices, and to use scientific and technological information correctly. Technology will be infused into the curriculum and the safety of the student should always be foremost in instruction.

A detailed listing of the subtopics for each standard may be found at <http://www.georgiastandards.org>

 **Physical Science**

**S8P1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the structure and properties of matter.**

**S8P2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the law of conservation of energy to develop arguments that energy can transform from one form to another within a system.**

**S8P3. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about cause and effect relationships between force, mass, and the motion of objects.**

**S8P4. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to support the claim that**

**electromagnetic (light) waves behave differently than mechanical (sound) waves.**

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**S8P5. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about gravity, electricity, and magnetism as major forces acting in nature.**

***Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum:*** Reading and writing skills are important to be successful in science. Each student will be required to keep an organized science notebook and to update it daily with content and concepts covered in class. Science is a creative endeavor of the human mind. It offers a special perspective of our world in terms of understanding and interaction. It is important that students bring this notebook with them to class **every day** along with paper and pen or pencil.

**Make-up policy:** Students are required to make-up missed assignments. They may turn in the assignments before the next Canes Time for full credit. Work made up during Canes Time will receive a maximum grade of **70**. Make –ups will not be accepted after the 7th week of a quarter.

***Evaluation:*** As a science department, we believe in using many forms of assessment. We will use pre-testing, a variety of classroom activities, labs, homework, quizzes, independent and group work to check for understanding as the unit progresses. These are considered **formative** grades and are weighted as 40% of the term average. At the end of each unit or section of information, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of the standards. This may include tests and or performance tasks and will be counted as **summative** grades which will be weighted at 60% of the term average. You are encouraged to track your child’s progress on the computer using **PowerSchool**. See the CMS front office if you need to obtain your login information.

***Textbook:***

***Pearson Interactive Science***

***Resources:*** Our school website, <https://www.cartersvilleschools.org/CMS> , provides a wealth of information. I have a web page that can be accessed by clicking on the school staff tab and then clicking on my name. I will keep this updated with resources, links and important dates. Please check this often to stay current on present and upcoming assignments. You may also login to Schoology through our site. Schoology will list current unit resources as well as “digital learning” assignments which will be activated in the event of school closings. all of our media center resources. All of our physical science vocabulary can be found on-line @ [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) . On this site, enter **canes8** in the search box and scroll down to find our class and the current unit of study.

***Communication:*** ***Email Address:*** ***jjohnson@cartersvilleschools.org***

Please feel free to email me, call or leave a voice message at 770-382-3666, if you have any questions or concerns. I will get back with you as soon as possible. I firmly believe that success in science thrives as a partnership between students, teachers, and parents.

I will use Blackboard to send out messages to both students and parents as reminders of important information. Please sign and fill in your email address below so that I can enter it into our messaging system.

If there is any other way I can be of assistance to you or your child, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to a great year of learning science together!

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