



Welcome to Physical Science 2020-21

Dear Students,

Despite the challenges we are facing this year, I'm confident we are going to have a great time studying Physical Science together and that you will learn a lot!

As you know, we will be on an alternating online/in-person schedule for at least the fall semester. I have worked hard to create a syllabus that allows us to do hands-on activities and labs on days that we are physically together. We will all need to remain flexible as I suspect there will be several revisions to our syllabus throughout the year as circumstances change. Because of this and in order to minimize the number of emails, I have created a website for physical science which will be your go-to place for all the latest information. This, however, means that it is imperative that you **check the website frequently** or you might miss something - and I do not accept late work.

The website is: www.cottageschoolphysicalscience.weebly.com

Supplies

Students need a **3-ring binder** containing **filler paper** for note-taking and dividers for the following sections: **Notes, Labs, Handouts, Homework** and **Assessments**. These items are very important to the development of your organizational skills and maintaining the resources needed to study for any quiz or test. Also, students will need a **calculator**, and a **ruler**. (Occasionally, we will use **colored pencils** and **scissors**, but I'll announce that ahead of the days they are needed.)

Also, I have a lot of handouts for you in this class. I want to give you the entire packet of handouts for the year before the first day of class. These handouts can go directly into your 3-ring binder. Since our first day, Sep 18th, is an online day, I want to get your packet to you *before* then. Therefore, I'm asking parents to pick them up from me on **Thursday, Sep 17th**, at CCS. If you do not have classes that day, contact me to make other arrangements. I will send further instructions when class day logistics are known - probably I will have them at the covered picnic pavilion and you can pick them up there.

Homework

Weekly homework assignments for the entire year are all listed on the syllabus and should take about 2 -3 hours per week to complete. Homework consists of reading the textbook, doing the corresponding section assessments, worksheets, and lab write-ups. Homework

will usually be corrected first thing in class, though some assignments might be collected and graded. Completing your homework is essential to learning the material.

Summer Assignment

Please read Chapters 1 & 2 in the textbook before the first day of class.

Quizzes and Tests

Most assessments will be taken online. I generally give a quiz for each chapter and then two unit tests, one for each semester. Occasionally, I may give a pop quiz in class.

Work Smart

It is very important to begin the homework assignment early in the week and do a little each day. By spreading the workload over the whole week, you will better retain the information and be more successful. Students who try to do a week's worth of physical science homework after a full day of Thursday CCS classes are setting themselves up for failure and will struggle in the class. I know everyone is busy with other classes and activities, but PLEASE try to start your homework on Monday and do a little each day.

Make-up Work

It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the class. If you miss a day, you should simply do your best to move forward, following the syllabus - everything you need is right there. If you would like to have a one-on-one online session with me to get caught up, I'm happy to provide that. Please use the contact form (under "Help") at the website to let me know and we'll schedule it. For anyone who is ill or has an excused absence, I will grant a grace period to turn in missed assignments. Beyond that, I will not be accepting ANY late work. I am always available by email if you need anything at all - feel free to contact me for any questions or clarifications. (jen.wright@gmail.com)

I'm very much looking forward to getting to know all of you as we work together through a year of science inquiry.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,

Mrs. Wright