

9th Grade Integrated Science

Introduction:

We have adopted an integrated approach to science in grades seven through nine and have purchased specific texts that will foster this philosophy. We hope that this will add greater consistency as the student's progress through the sciences here at Mt. Greylock. We will be examining a variety of topics in the 9th grade science classes. Topics include:

- Scientific Skills and Methods
- Forces, Motion, and Energy
- Physics of Flight, Structures of Flight, & Physics of Space Flight
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Sound and Light
- Weather & Climate

We will be enhancing these topics by working on projects and labs. We will also be using computer communication technology via the Internet for research. Since our school is fortunate to have a computer network, all finished project work will be expected to be computer generated. That will include spreadsheet work w/graphs, word processor documents, and so on. Time will be taken to instruct students on the various computer applications in order to facilitate this process.

We are also on the Web at: http://home.comcast.net/~michael_j_powers/ I have posted the “Weekly Assignment Sheet” in the upper right corner for you to keep up with what we are doing in class. I used to send home hardcopies of the sheet, but found that many students did not show these forms to their parents. In fact, some students simply left them on their desks. You may click on the link and print out a copy for yourself.

Expectations:

Being prepared for class is expected and it is the student’s responsibility to have all assignments completed when due. Students will have a weekly list of the major assignments, tests and quizzes. I will also be sending home grade reports every four weeks that will list all grades to date. These reports will be required to be signed by at least one parent/guardian. Topic unit/project plans will also need to be signed.

Absences:

Any time a student misses school it is the student’s responsibility to contact the school to get any assignment that can be sent home. If an extended excused absence is anticipated please make arrangements with me in advance in order to complete any work that will be missed. Students will **NOT** be allowed to make up work because of unexcused absences. Please see the Student Handbook for more information.

Students are expected to bring the following materials to class each day: 1. Text 2. *Notebook, 3. Pen(s) & Pencil(s), 4. Homework if assigned. **The notebook is a valuable tool in which to study from. It helps you to organize yourself and can instill a sense of confidence. I would suggest a 2-3 inch 3 ring binder with approximately 5 dividers.

****Notebook Setup:** The notebook will be evaluated upon the following checklist:

Organization-

- Notebook/Portfolio divided into proper sections (Notes/Log, Weather Journal, Handouts, Lab/Classwork, Tests/Quizzes, Homework/Handouts)
- Divider tabs clearly and properly labeled
- Sufficient amount of material in the proper sections (no missing papers, notes, etc.)
- Weekly Assignment(s) listed in front
- Only current material included

Appearance-

- Name and class clearly labeled on outside and inside cover
- Material not falling out, no nubs or torn material
- Neatness- proper care and respect from cover to cover
- Notebook in good working condition

Course Grading:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Percent of Grade</i>
Test	30%
Quiz	20%
Lab/Classwork	30%
Homework	10%
Notebook	10%
Total	100%

Grading Example:

Test Ave. = $76 \times .30 = 22.8$ grade points

Quiz Ave. = $88 \times .20 = 17.6$ grade points

Lab Ave. = $92 \times .30 = 27.6$ grade points

Homework = $68 \times .10 = 6.80$ grade points

Notebook = $96 \times .10 = 9.60$ grade points

Final Grade 84.4

Extra Credit: Opportunities will be provided, however, this will not be a substitute for completing the required class work or assignments. If you have any questions I can be reached at (S) 413-458-9582 ext. 142. I may also be reached by Email at: mjpowers@mgrhs.org or Michael_J_Powers@comcast.net

Thank you,

Mr. Michael J. Powers

Please sign the form below and have your son/daughter return it me. Keep the top portion for your records.

Parent/Guardian

Student

Mt. Greylock Regional High School

September 22, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The course(s) that I teach emphasizes a tremendous amount of hands-on activities. There will be many action photos/videos of students working on various projects taken this year and I would like to use some of them for educational purposes like newsletters, school presentations, etc. I want to assure you that I will not use any names or identifying information with the photos.

Please fill out and sign the permission portion below. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Powers, M.Ed.
Science & Education Technology Instructor

I give my permission for photo(s)/video(s) of my son/daughter _____ to be used for educational purposes.

Student

Parent/Guardian