[](http://rutlandhs.k12.vt.us/drodolfy/scientist.g)



Welcome to NHS PHYSICAL SCIENCE

with Mrs. Tomb

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***Science***  is part of the dynamic process by which we answer questions concerning the complex world we live in. This year, we will share in a learning experience. For my part, I will serve as your *science coach*. I will seek to provide you with extensive brain training and a better understanding of the world around you. I will strive to be challenging, fair and fun.

***Why Science 9?***

***Science 9*** is part of our everyday life. Without science we would be missing out on many different inventions and knowledge that help us get through each day. Asking why things happen, how they work, what makes them behave in a certain way is all part of science. The three main areas of scientific study are Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Scientific discoveries are responsible for many things in our life, which we take for, granted such as the light bulb, televisions, cell phones and medicines. We will be learning and investigating all things involved with the physical sciences: the chemistry and physics of “stuff”.

**Class Goal:** By the end of this school year you should have a good background and understanding of basic scientific principles to prepare you for your future science classes you will take at North High School. In addition, this class will serve as a means to becoming critical thinkers, problem solvers and readers in the language of science.

***------------------------------Materials required for class EVERY DAY--------------------------***

* A well organized binder for notes and handouts (will be checked periodically).
* Paper and pen/pencil.
* Scientific calculator (~$10, does **not** need to be a graphing calculator).
* Your textbook

***In the event you do not come to class with the above materials and must return to your locker you will be considered tardy.***

***-----------------------------------Grading and Assessment----------------------------------------***

Your success in science this year will largely be determined by the time and effort you put forth in class work, homework, quizzes, tests, projects and classroom participation.

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| **Assignments** | **% of Grade** | **Frequency** |
| Classwork & Homework | 10% | Daily/nightly |
| Tests & Quizzes | 50% | Quizzes- 1/week; Tests- ~1/month |
| Lab Activities and Projects\* | 40% | Activities ~1/week; Projects- ~1/month |

\*Projects may include written papers, web quests, posters, computer assignments, etc.

Late assignments

**10% of the total points/day will be deducted** for late assignments. **After the completion of the unit test missing assignments will receive a grade of zero and will no longer be accepted.**

Extra Help

Remember I am here to help you succeed. In the event you need extra help I am happy to meet with you during a free period or after school. You are also welcome to e-mail me your questions or concerns at any time at [*chris.tomb@weschcools.org*](mailto:chris.tomb@weschcools.org) *or send me a tweet @tombsphysics.*

*Additional resources and apps will be provided throughout the course of the year.*

***----------------------------------Attendance and Make-up Work--------------------------------***

* **Strive for perfect attendance**. Everything you learn builds on earlier material.
* In the event you have an **EXCUSED ABSENCE** from school it is you must see me as soon as you return and arrange to make-up missing work, quizzes, tests, etc. This is **YOUR responsibility**! You will have 1 day per excused day of absence to turn in any make-up work. Example: You are sick for two days, upon return to school you have 2 days to complete any missed assignment(s). On the 3rd day assignments will then be considered late and subject to the 5 point penalty stated above.
* Unexcused absences (including expulsions) will result in a grade of 0 for the day's assignment(s). No make-up tests or quizzes will be given for an unexcused absence.
* **Absence on a lab day**: Labs are difficult to make-up given the time limitations for set-up/clean-up. Students who miss a lab due to an excused absence will be given up to one week **after school to make-up the missed lab**. In the event a student cannot stay after school to make-up a missed lab, a report or other alternate project will be assigned.
* **Missed lab due to inappropriate lab attire**: Lab safety is taken very seriously. We will work with various chemicals and equipment which require appropriate personal protection. On lab days you must wear goggles, long pants, closed toe shoes and long hair must be tied back. Students who fail to come to lab dressed appropriately will be given an alternate assignment to complete during the lab.

***-------------------------------Expectations when in my classroom------------------------------***

**In this classroom we are a team**. To work together as a team and make your experience in science a successful one requires you to adhere to the following:

* Put forth your best effort every day.
* Be in your seat with all the required materials (see above) before the bell rings.
* Be respectful of me, yourself and others.
* Complete assignments on time. This will require doing some work and study outside of class.
* Follow directions and always ask questions.
* Be sure your work is your own work**. Cheating and/or plagiarism** will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on the assignment. I expect the highest integrity from myself and my students.

In the event a student's behavior does not meet classroom/school expectations, I will *typically* enforce the following consequences:

* 1st offense verbal warning
* 2nd offense After class conference with student
* 3rd offense Referral to an administrator, assign detention and phone call home

**Dress Code and Procedures**: See school's written dress code policy. All students are expected to adhere to the school's written dress code policy. Any student who comes to class dressed inappropriately will be sent to office.

**Cell phones and personal electronic devices**: See school's written policy on personal electronic devices. All students are expected to adhere to the school's written policy on cell phones and personal electronic devices. **Any student who uses their cell phone/MP3 player or other electronic device without permission; will be asked to put the phone in the “phone bucket” for safe keeping until after clas *- no warnings*. CELL PHONES ARE NOT TO BE USED AS CALCULATORS** (see materials required for class, above).

**Bullying, Harassment and Safety**: See school’s written policy on bullying and harassment. I have a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** regarding bullying, harassment or behavior considered to be unsafe. **Students engaging in bullying, harassment or unsafe behavior will immediately be sent to the office and a parent notified- NO WARNINGS**. ***A claim of “joking around” is never acceptable***.

***What can you expect from me?***

* To make class **interesting**, **fun** and **relevant** to your lives.
* To come to class **prepared**, ready to teach and help you in any way possible.
* To treat everyone **fairly** and with **respect.**
* To have an **open mind** and **accommodate** your various learning needs.
* To **listen** to your questions and points of view.
* To set **high** but reasonable **expectations** for each of you.
* To grade and return assignments promptly (typically next day for class/homework and up to 1 week for tests, quizzes

and reports).