

# Mrs. Cronin 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science: Course Description and Policies 2019-2020

Email: [ycronin@conejousd.org](mailto:ycronin@conejousd.org)

Website: <https://www.mrscroninphysicalscience.com/>

Location: Room 64

## Course Description:

8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be studying introductory physical science - the study of physics and chemistry. This course will include investigation of the atom, matter, motion, forces, basic chemistry, energy, and waves. We will investigate these topics using a variety of methods, including research and hands on experiments.

## Course Objectives:

In addition to learning about general physical science and its application to real life scenarios, students will continue to learn about the scientific method. We will form hypotheses and approach problems individually and in teams. Moreover, students will continue to practice their investigation/research skills, writing both succinctly and in longer report form, while referencing reliable sources and citing their sources. My goal for students is to remain curious and continue to ask questions and learn. When performing experiments, we will focus on the process and lessons learned, rather than achieving perfect experiment results/data, as in science we rarely achieve first time success, and many trials are necessary.

## Student Responsibilities:

- Attend class each day and be on time.
- Be prepared to learn and have materials/assignments (if applicable) ready.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Complete all assigned readings, class work, and homework.
- Ask questions relevant to the topic we are discussing.
- Be considerate and respectful to your teacher and classmates.
- Advocate for yourself: Please know that I'm honored to be your teacher and welcome your questions and feedback.

## Classroom Guidelines:

- No student may interfere with other students' right to learn or teacher's teaching. Students who purposefully interfere with the learning process, or purposefully jeopardize others' safety will face disciplinary consequences.
- Students are to remain respectful during instruction and while teacher and/or other students are speaking.
- Students are to remain in their seats, unless otherwise instructed by their teacher (e.g. during labs or group activities).
- Cell phones are to remain in students' backpacks, outside the classroom.
- Eating is not allowed in the classroom (unless documented medical need necessitates otherwise). In addition, when we perform labs, water bottles must remain outside.
- The bell does not dismiss the class. Please remain seated at your desk. Please do not line up or leave the class until excused by Mrs. Cronin.

- If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to make up missed assignments or schedule make up exams (unless copyrights prevent me from doing so, I will post files on our class website. Our website also will have a brief description of our daily activities).

### **Disciplinary Consequences:**

- Please refer to the [Conejo Valley Unified School Districts Discipline Policy and Procedures](#) (a copy is available on the school district website) for complete rules and policies, inclusive of procedures concerning academic honesty.
- If students are disruptive in class, I will always issue a verbal warning to students before taking any other action.
- Students who fail to follow classroom procedures after a verbal warning will have their name recorded.
- After two warnings, students will be asked to reflect on their negative behavior in writing and develop an action plan to resolve the problem. I will also contact the student's family to discuss behavior.
- Detention and/or administrative referral will be assigned to students who fail to conform to procedures after verbal warnings and reflection.

### **Grading and Homework Policy:**

- Homework is due at the beginning of the class on the due date (always the next class meeting, unless otherwise specified). Late homework will be accepted up to 3 weekdays after the due date. However, students will earn a maximum of 70% on late submissions, even if the work is complete and accurate. Students returning from an excused absence, have the same number of days as their absence to turn in work missed.
- Course work will be assigned the following weights:
  - 60% tests/Assessments/Projects
  - 25% folders and classwork (inclusive of labs)
  - 10% homework
  - 5% class participation.
- Grades are assigned based on the following percentages
  - A = 100-90%
  - B = 89.9-80%
  - C = 79.9-70%
  - D = 69.9-60%
  - F = 59.9-0%\*\*

\*\*Please note that academic dishonesty results in a fail grade on the given assignment or assessment. Please refer to the [Conejo Valley Unified School Districts Discipline Policy and Procedures](#) (a copy is available on the school district website) for complete rules and policies.

### **How to reach Mrs. Cronin:**

The best way to contact me is via email at [ycronin@conejousd.org](mailto:ycronin@conejousd.org) . Please note that I will likely not be able to respond immediately, as I will be teaching during the day. However, I will respond as soon as possible.

**Parent and Student Contract**

**(Please return this page to Mrs. Cronin; please file the syllabus for future reference)**

Student's **Last** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents/Guardian:**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent's Name) have read and understand Mrs. Cronin's policies.

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you prefer me to contact you (Circle one): Email or Phone call?

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything you would like me to know about your student:

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**Student:**

I have read and understand Mrs. Cronin's policies. I agree to come to class prepared and do my very best. I will communicate my needs and questions with Mrs. Cronin at an appropriate time (Mrs. Cronin will always allot time for questions in class). I realize that I'm responsible for my actions and take full responsibility for my behavior. I will not interfere with others' right to learn.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like Mrs. Cronin to know the following about me:

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