Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to Physical Science at South Forsyth High School! I am Mrs. Miller, and I am very excited to engage my students in physical science—the study of matter and energy. From the collisions of molecules within our cells to the inner workings of a refrigerator, this course will help us all to better appreciate the natural laws by which our physical world operates, which in turn provides the platform for the magnificent processes of life.

This is my fourth year as a science teacher at South Forsyth High School. I have a Master’s degree in Science Education from the University of Georgia and a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, where I also played college basketball for four years. I (still) enjoy playing basketball, cycling, hiking, and being outdoors whenever possible. I hope to draw connection points between content and current issues in our world, such as that of nuclear power. We will be further exploring these concepts through laboratories, class demos, and other learning tools.

Parents, please encourage your son or daughter to actively participate in class, complete all assignments thoughtfully and on time, and to study regularly outside of class. Attached you will find the course syllabus.

Feel free to contact me at any point by email (amiller@forsyth.k12.ga.us) or at (770) 781-2264 x 101222.

Sincerely,

Amy Miller

Physical Science Teacher
FORSYTH COUNTY COURSE SYLLABUS 2012-2013

**COURSE TITLE:** Physical Science → *Extra Help Sessions: Mon 7:45-8:15 AM; Wed 3:45-4:15 PM; Instructional Focus; other times by appointment*

**TEACHER NAME:** Mrs. Amy Miller  
**E-MAIL:** amiller@forsyth.k12.ga.us

**ROOM:** East Hall 1222  
**PHONE:** 770-781-2264  
**EXT:** 101222

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**Course Description:** This is a survey course investigating the physical sciences. There are 2 major sections. The first of these categories is introductory physics, which will be covered during the first semester. The second section is introductory chemistry, which will be studied throughout the second semester. Learning takes place via labs, demonstrations, direct instruction, reading, and writing.

**Standards:** Course standards can be found at [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org).

**Units** (these should be labeled on binder divider tabs):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 – Intro to Physical Science</th>
<th>7 – Matter, Phases, &amp; Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 – Motion &amp; Forces</td>
<td>8 – The Atom, Periodic Table, &amp; Radioactivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – Energy, Work &amp; Power</td>
<td>9 – Bonding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 – Thermal Energy</td>
<td>10 – Chemical Reactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – Waves</td>
<td>11 – Acids &amp; Bases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – Electricity &amp; Magnetism</td>
<td>EOCT Prep*</td>
</tr>
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A unit test will conclude each unit of study. This class also has a Georgia *End of Course Test* which students will be prepared to take at the culmination of the course.

The *End-of-Course Test (EOCT)* is a cumulative standardized assessment which counts as 20% of the overall course average. It is given upon completion of a specific course. EOCT courses are determined by state graduation requirements.

**Learning Resources/Textbook:** Holt Physical Science—online access via [http://www.glencoe.com/ose/](http://www.glencoe.com/ose/) and enter the pass code which can be found on ANGEL

With the emergence of technology as a tool for learning, South Forsyth High School will be utilizing various resources to assist with instruction, including ANGEL, online textbooks, and interactive websites. In addition to these web based instructional tools, this course will also have a classroom set of textbooks. Should you feel that your child would benefit from having a textbook at home in addition to the classroom textbook, please contact your child’s teacher.
Keys to Mrs. Miller’s Class:

Think. Work. Be involved. Be dedicated, everyday, and be curious. You will thrive!

Required Assignments: There will be approximately 10 unit tests during the course as well as various performance based assessments that require writing, research, and creativity. The number of formative grades such as quizzes, homework, etc. will be determined along the course of the school year. **Students should expect a homework assignment everyday and should look over notes and new material each day.**

Items needed for class: Pens/pencils, paper, highlighter, **three-ring binder with tabs/dividers**, loose leaf paper, and a **scientific calculator**

Extra Help: **Instructional Focus**—this is a GREAT time for small group help; ask me for a pass! I am also available Monday morning from 7:45-8:15 and Wednesday afternoon from 3:45-4:15. When possible, please make an appointment ahead of time so that I can devote my full attention to your needs.

Make-up Work: When students are absent from school, they are responsible for all missed work and assessments. **Students should see ANGEL immediately (Calendar, followed by Lessons) and can find handouts in our classroom.** A student who is absent on the class day immediately before a regularly scheduled assessment/assignment will be responsible for completing the assessment/assignment on the regularly scheduled day and time. Students who have been absent will be given five (5) school days to make up the assessment and/or other assignments. This does not include major projects, research papers, tests, etc. where the deadline/date has been posted in advance. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period of time to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances.

**A daily update of any handouts given out in class will be posted on ANGEL. We will also utilize ANGEL as a posting point for class announcements as well as other class resources. Check ANGEL!**

Late Work: Homework must be completed on the day it is due. Long-term projects must be turned in on the previously scheduled date. If a student is absent on that day, they must turn in the project the day they return to possibly receive full credit. For every day late thereafter, the highest possible grade will be a 70 and will only be accepted before the unit test is administered. All other late work will be handled on a case-by-case basis: students must see me in extenuating circumstances.

Grading Calculations & Policy:

Course Average = 40% (1\(^{\text{ST}}\) Sem. Course Work) + 40% (2\(^{\text{ND}}\) Sem. Course Work) + 20% EOCT or Final Exam

1\(^{\text{ST}}\) & 2\(^{\text{ND}}\) Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Concept of formative assessment: [http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=8&n=9](http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=8&n=9)

A = 90 – 100  
B = 80 – 89  
C = 70 – 79  
Failing = Below 70

*Formative Assessments include, but are not limited to homework, class work, practice tests, rough drafts, and sections of projects/research papers/presentations.*

*Summative Assessments include, but are not limited to unit tests, final projects, final essays, final research papers, and final presentations.*

- **Work Habits** will also be evaluated every term based on the categories of Responsibility, Participation, Assignment Completion, & Interpersonal Skills