**Dear Parent,**

As your child’s science teacher, I look forward to a productive and enjoyable school year. I am writing to inform you of what is expected of your son/daughter so that he/she can have success in my class:

1. **Good attendance.** If a student is frequently absent, it is almost impossible to pass. If your child misses a class, he/she is expected to make up missed work, both for credit and to stay even with the rest of the class.
2. **Being prepared for class.** Your child should always come to class with a pencil or pen, a notebook, and a calculator. Basic calculators are inexpensive and will be used throughout the year.
3. **A well-kept notebook.** Please provide your child with a notebook pad for class notes and assignments. Also, please instruct him/her to keep science notes separate from other subjects. Being organized enables students to better prepare for tests and quizzes and can make a big difference in grades.
4. **Completion of all assigned work.** I count homework, class work, and lab reports as a big part of the quarterly grade. Homework, lab reports, and research papers reinforce the concepts being presented and are therefore assigned often.
5. **Good behavior and consideration of others.** We all want your child to have a good, safe learning environment. This means that there cannot be any disruption of the learning process. Cell phone use is not allowed. Also, much instruction takes place in the lab. Therefore, proper attire is required for lab experiments and no fooling around will be tolerated. All classroom rules detailed in the student handbook apply.

**Thank you for your cooperation. Please feel free to call or write if you have any concerns. I look forward to meeting you at open house.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jill Pirie**

jpirie@thompsonpublicschools.org

(860) 923-9303 ext. 212

**College Prep Physical Science**

**Level III Course Number 202**

**Grade 9 1 Credit**

**Class-wide Expectations:**

*1.2 Organization and Analysis*

*1.3 Solve the Problem/Make a Decision*

*3.2 Use of Equipment and Application of Technology*

Physical science approaches the study of matter and energy through observation, experimentation, and problem solving. In this full-year course, students are introduced to basic principles of physics and chemistry and how those principles are exhibited in our everyday lives.

Topics addressed in physical science include the review and application of the scientific method; the SI measurement system; data collection and presentation; atoms, molecules, and compounds; matter and its interactions; forces and motion; energy transformations and conservation; waves and the electromagnetic spectrum; earth’s place in the universe; earth systems; and global energy and resource use.

In physical science scientific inquiry, literacy and numeracy are emphasized. Students will explore physical properties by compiling, and interpreting evidence in frequent laboratory experiences. They will use mathematical formulas and logic to process and understand data. And they will communicate their findings through written and oral presentations.

Student performance is assessed by a variety of means, including tests and quizzes, labs and lab reports, and research papers. Students will be required to submit some work to their digital portfolios as evidence of meeting class-wide expectations.

The textbook and ancillary materials used in Physical Science are from Glencoe ***Physical Science with Earth Science***, Copyright 2006.

Students opting Physical Science should have a strong math background and the recommendation of their eighth grade science teacher. **This class is required for graduation.**