



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Physical Science is designed to introduce students to the major scientific concepts of the physical world that surrounds them, discovering God's consistency and sovereignty throughout creation. Students will engage in the fields of geology, astronomy, chemistry, and physics through readings, labs, and research. The skills and concepts covered will provide a foundation for future science classes at MCA.

REQUIRED READING

- Astronomy folder
- Readings will be provided throughout the school year as handouts

SUPPLIES

In addition to the following items, please consult the grade level supply list.

- Student planner
- Binder or folder with sections
- College ruled loose-leaf notebook paper (50-100 sheets)
- Graphing paper
- Ruler (metric & U.S.)
- Calculator
- Access to MCA email account (check that this is working before school starts; let me know if you need help)

GRADING

Mastery (M) is achieved by obtaining an 85% overall percentage in the class. The relative value of the homework, quizzes and class participation is as follows:

- **Class contribution 10%**
- **Daily work 60%**
- **Tests and Labs 30%**

Daily Work, Tests, and Labs will count for 90% of a student's grade. Class contribution will make up the remaining 10% (see the Class Contribution section for more details).

Mastery is achieved by obtaining an 85% overall percentage in the class.

Mastery Qualifying (MQ) is achieved by obtaining a 92.5% average for the first semester.

Mastery with Honors (MH) is achieved by maintaining this 92.5% average in the second semester *and* completing a Mastery with Honors project of at least 20 hours.

If a student scores below 75% on a test, he/she is required to revise all missed problems and then retake a test ("revise and retake") with comparable problems. If the student scores above 75% on the second test, then he/she will not be able to revise this test and the grade will stand. If the student again scores below 75%, he/she must repeat the process on a third test. The third test is NOT revisable. A student is not able to take any future

tests until this process is completed. Students and parents should feel a strong sense of urgency any time they need to retake a test, as this process can slow down progression with the rest of the class. Since math is a highly sequential subject, MCA believes that this process is what will help students to build on a solid foundation as they progress through their education.

Contribution Grades

Contribution Grades will be taken each day of class, and the student may earn up to 10 points for the hour. This daily grade will count toward 10% of the final grade.

Contribution will be primarily assessed in four areas: a student's **preparation** for class, his **attitude** towards learning, his **contribution** towards learning during class time, and his level of **engagement** during the class conversation.

A student's **respectfulness** towards God, his tutor, and peers is a prerequisite for a good Contribution Grade.

REVISIONS

Most assignments are revisable, with the exception of presentations. Through revisions, a student can earn back 70% of the points lost on an assignment, and the student may attempt up to **two** revisions to regain the maximum possible points.

All revisions must be **turned in no later than two weeks after the original due date**. To receive revision points, complete the revisions on a separate sheet of paper, then staple the revised work on top of the original assignment. Turn this in to your tutor or your tutor's box in the front office.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Assignments are due at the beginning of class, after which point they are considered late (for example, an assignment turned in half-way through class will be late).

The following scale details how late assignments will be graded.

- **turned in within 7 days** - 10% deduction from grade
- **turned in within 2 weeks** - 20% deduction from grade
- **after 2 weeks** - permanently marked as "Missing" and will earn zero points. You may address the tutor if you have extenuating circumstances, and it will be up to the tutor's discretion if the late assignment will be accepted.

-Please note that late assignments will be marked in FACTS as "Missing" (M), yet the student will still have 2 weeks to turn in the assignment with late penalties. "Missing" grades calculate as a zero in the gradebook and will affect the student's overall grade, which could result in being excused from MCA extracurricular activities during a grade check.

-If the assignment is not turned in within 2 weeks from the due date, the grade will remain a zero.

-If the student has an excused absence, he/she will be given an equal number of class periods to turn in the assignment. The grade will be marked as "Pending" for that duration of time, which is a placeholder for a grade and does not affect the overall grade.

COMMUNICATION

At Midland Classical Academy, we promote an open-door environment between tutors, students, and parents. Students are encouraged to initiate contact with their tutors when they need help on a concept or just a listening ear. My office hours will be posted on my office door, and students are welcome to drop by or schedule an appointment. Parents are also encouraged to contact me in the same manner.

I will do my best to communicate with students and parents if the student's grade is below an 85%.

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY

Extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the school year, but most of them are assigned and only available for a limited time. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities as they come along, as there are very few available as the end of the school year approaches.

MCA Schoolwide Policies

MCA ATTENDANCE POLICY

Absence: Parents must inform the school if their student will be absent for any reason. Call the Front Office or email upperschoolnurse@mcaknights.org prior to the absence or on the morning of the absence. If a student is absent without prior notification by a parent, the school will call the parent to determine the validity of the absence. Call the office, 432-694-0995, or email upperschoolnurse@mcaknights.org.

In the event an Upper School student is absent for more than one-fourth (1/4) of the class sessions during a semester, the student's parents must meet with the tutor and Head Administrator to determine whether the student will receive credit for the class. Additional and/or make-up work may be required.

Tardy Policy: Tardies will be marked at the discretion of the individual tutors. Students or parents should contact the individual tutors to report reasons for tardies as soon as possible.

Missed Assignment Due Date Guidelines: In the event of an absence, a due date extension will be given. The extension will not exceed the number of school days missed during the absence. Due dates will be established by the class tutor. Students must complete all work assigned during their absence. However, the tutors may, at their discretion, excuse the students from any portion of the assignments missed. Students will receive full credit for submitting assigned work. Note: It is the **student's responsibility** to find out what work was assigned. In the case of extended illness, it is recommended that the student or parents contact the tutors directly to find out what assignments were or will be missed.

MCA HONESTY POLICY

All students are assumed to be exhibiting the godly fruit of self-control. We anticipate working with students who are characterized by joy, honesty, and diligence. For this reason, upon enrollment, we require that each student affirm that he or she will maintain the highest standards of honesty and behavior in all work done for Midland Classical Academy. All students will be asked to sign the following.

Pledge of Academic Honesty

I have read and understand the Midland Classical Academy Code of Conduct. I pledge my honor, with God as my witness, to commit myself to the practice and preservation of these standards of academic honesty as long as I am a student of the academy.

As such, the following actions are considered serious violations of our Honesty Policy.

1. *Directly copying someone else's work visually, orally, electronically, or otherwise.*
2. *Use of disallowed devices on assignments such as notes, smartphones, books, etc.*
3. *Getting test questions or essential information from another student who has already completed an assignment that will later be taken, such as a test or quiz.*
4. *Any other activity that the tutor has explicitly described as cheating.*

MCA MASTERY WITH HONORS (MH)

Midland Classical Academy offers honors credit, referred to as "Mastery with Honor", but we offer no "honors" classes.

Mastery with Honor credit for a class is given to those students who

- receive a minimum grade of 92.5 at the end of each semester
- receive a minimum participation grade of 85 at the end of each semester
- demonstrate character befitting an honor student (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- complete a tutor-approved, 20+ hour project that advances the student's knowledge or skills in the subject while serving either the school or the community in some capacity.

As a student fulfills these requirements in a class at MCA, they receive a Mastery with Honor designated by an "MH" for the class. Mastery with Honor applications and a nominal fee are due at the end of October. The projects themselves are due at the end of March with two scheduled checkpoints in between the application and final deadline.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (A.I.) POLICY

Artificial Intelligence programs are tools that can be used beneficially or harmfully. To the extent that MCA uses these A.I. tools, we desire to use them and instruct our students to use them beneficially. It requires the classical virtue of “Wisdom” to discern the difference between what is beneficial and what is harmful.

Among MCA’s core values is “Engaging Minds”. Everything we do, including our use of A.I. needs to be in harmony with this value and to cultivate within students the skill of being able to “think for themselves”.

MCA offers the following principles for tutors & students to follow as they navigate A.I. in their academic domains. MCA tutors will create and clearly communicate their own instructions for A.I. usage in their classrooms and for their assignments. Students should practice integrity, honesty, and humility in their use of A.I. as in all their work.

Principle 1: *Why to use A.I.* - A.I. should only be used by a student to equip them to better understand the material and to learn in a way that facilitates their critical thinking skills.

Principle 2: *When to use A.I.* - Tutors will explicitly and clearly communicate which assignments a student may or may not use A.I. tools to assist in their learning.

Principle 3: *How to use A.I.* - Tutors will explicitly and clearly communicate the method in which it is acceptable and not acceptable for the student to use A.I. tools.