

8th Grade Physical Science



High Desert School 661 269-0310

2025/2026 School Year Find Joy in the Journey

Instructor Information

Marilynn Alford Walsh	malford@aadusd.k12.ca.us	Room 308
Science Department Chair	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday (Block Schedule Periods 1, 2, 3)	Office hours by appointment 2:30 pm-3:30 pm

General Information

Amplify Science

Amplify Science is a K-8 science curriculum that blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers.

Content of Study/Units

- Harnessing Human Energy
- Force and Motion
- Magnetic Fields
- Thermal Energy
- Phase Change/Matter
- Chemical Reactions
- Light Waves

Student Roles

- Energy Scientist
- Physicists
- Physicists
- Thermal Scientist
- Chemists
- Chemists
- Spectroscopists

Expectations and Goals

Students will follow class safety procedures to ensure their safety and the safety of others. Students will be respectful of themselves and others inside and outside of the classroom. Students will use their planner to keep assignments, test dates, and projects organized with timelines. Students will use their 3 ring binder/Notebook to stay organized, and build skills for high school and beyond.

Goals for the classroom are to build classroom norms, set standards, build relationships through mutual respect and trust, maintain a safe and healthy work environment, and engage in inquiry based-hands on activities, build self-confidence, problem solve, critically think, and build verbal communication skills for making a claim, arguing a case, reasoning, and validating using supporting evidence.

Course Materials

School Provided Planner

3 Ring Binder for all subjects/classes with dividers

Folder

Pencils

Pen-Blue or Black

Highlighter

Optional Materials

Markers, ruler, colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks, tape

Absolutely No Sharpie Markers Please

Required Text

All text materials are online - Amplify Science Resources

Each Unit has individual workbooks for students to use along with downloadable copies and online editable worksheets.

Students will have access to all of the materials in class through digital devices as well as workbooks.

Grading Policy

Classwork/Homework	35%
Quizzes	15%
Tests/Projects	35%
Participation	15%

Students are expected to check their grades weekly for accountability and to maintain their academic standings for eligibility in extra-curricular sports and activities. Students are encouraged to communicate with their teachers when they need extra time to complete an assignment or need extra support in a given content area.

Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the teacher when the student has communicated a need for extra time. A reduction of the grade will be implemented otherwise and the assignment will receive a zero credit after 1 week.

It is the responsibility of the student to ask for work missed, notes, and lab materials, when they have had an absence from class. All tests and quizzes may be made up within a week of the test or quiz.

Building skills for the future:

Accuracy of Measurement

International system of Units

Safety guidelines and Protocols

Application of Scientific Methods and Graphing

Lab equipment uses, storage, and care

Critical thinking and Problem solving

Communication

Find Joy in The Journey

Back to school night is August 28th at 5:30 pm. More information will be sent home.

Parent communication and Acknowledgement of 8th Grade Science Syllabus

The best way to contact me is by phone _____

email _____

other _____

Parent name _____

Parent signature _____

Student name _____

Student signature _____

High Desert School is a no cell phone campus during school hours. Phones must be turned off and in the student's backpack. Please contact the school office if you need to reach your child, or to have a message given to your child before the end of the day. Phones are not allowed during break or lunch, and all students are expected to follow the policy.



Gum is not allowed on High Desert Campus. Students are asked to leave the gum for after school and weekends.



Date _____

Due on or before Date 8/15/2025

Thank you for following the SOAR Matrix

High Desert Hawks

Strive to do their best

Own their Actions

Act Responsibly

Respect themselves and others

