

Berea Academy
Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science
Grade Level 7-9th
Semester 1 and 2
2019-2020
Teacher: Mrs. Paula Koranda
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About the teacher/contact info:

I am very excited about teaching at Berea Academy this year! I have been teaching a science co-op since 2012, and have taught Apologia General Science (twice), Physical Science (twice), Biology (twice), and Advanced Biology Human Anatomy once, and Nature Unleashed Missouri Department of Conservation curriculum once. This is also my 17th year homeschooling my own children (four sons ages 15-21). If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, text or email.

Class description:

This class covers the book Apologia Physical Science 2nd Edition by Dr. Jay Wile. This course covers such topics as the atmosphere, hydrosphere, weather, the structure of the earth, environmentalism, physics of motion, Newton's laws, gravity and astrophysics. Hands on experiments are included in almost every chapter (module). I encourage discussion of the concepts presented, and try to get the students to “think on their own” outside of what they think the “right” answer is. As this is the last science class most take before high school level biology, we spend a lot of time focusing on writing concise lab report.

Each class period will consist of a review of the assigned reading, answering the On Your Own and Study Guide questions, experiments and lab reports and preparing for the module tests.

Grade Level/Prerequisites:

This course is recommended for 7th-9th grade.. There are no prerequisites, but students should be able to do basic per-algebraic formulas and conversions (we will review all the math in class as well). The student should be prepared to do a lot of reading and review and learning new vocabulary. The tests are not matching or fill in the blank types, but require a thorough understanding of the material and vocabulary.

Type of Course:

This is a full Core science class. With all the work done, including labs, this can be counted as 1 credit of science on a high school transcript.

Supplies and Materials:

The \$20 lab fee covers all the materials and supplies for the experiments, as well as the copies of the tests and lab grading sheets.

I will email a PDF of the lab report forms. Please print your own copies and bring to class. I will also email copies of the grading sheets and rubrics for your reference.

The student should provide the text book Exploring Creation with Physical Science 2nd Edition by Dr. Jay Wile ISBN 978-1-932012-77-4. This book is available used online at many websites. You do NOT need the Tests/Solutions Manual or the Student Notebook. There is also an optional MP3 version of

the book that may be helpful for auditory learners. This is not a replacement for the textbook, only an enhancement if desired.

Each student will also need a 3-ring binder and I suggest three tabs: On Your Own, Study Guide, Lab Reports. I do not care if the OYO questions are hand-written or typed, as long as they are printed out and put in the binder for class. Students should also bring a PENCIL and colored pencils for lab reports.

Class communication:

I will communicate with parents through email as often as necessary about any details concerning the class or any changes to the schedule, assignment reminders, etc

Grading Scale:

I will give each individual module a grade. The lab reports count for 50%, and the module test the other 50%. On the few modules that do not have experiments, there will be another type of assignment. I know that some students test well, some do better with the hands-on portion of the course, so my goal is for the grade to reflect the actual knowledge gained and effort put into it. I do not grade the OYO and Study Guide. We will review them in class, and it is to their benefit to have them done. We also have a friendly competition with the Study Guide review, and there are points. And maybe candy. There is NO extra credit given in this class, but participation and effort goes a long way.

Assignments:

The text is 16 modules, which I have broken out into two weeks per module. We will cover approximately half of each module each week, and do the OYO questions and experiments as we come to them. We will review the Study Guide on the second week and I will send the test home with the students then. I expect that the tests are to be completed closed-book, without any additional materials.

I will send out a schedule showing the reading to be completed each week, and what will be covered in each class, and what assignments are due. Each module lab reports are to be turned in with the completed test.

Student Behavior:

Please refer to the Student Handbook for Berea policies. Students are to be respectful to not only myself but each other as well, and handle the equipment and supplies with respect.