

Course Syllabus Life Science 2020-2021

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Introduction:

The middle school life science course is designed to give students a repertoire of skills required to become scientifically literate citizens. Students will demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts consistent with the **Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)**, understand the concepts and relationships between life science and other science disciplines, and relate science to their everyday lives.

Teacher Web Page:

I will be utilizing my HCBOE teacher webpage to keep parents and students informed of what we are doing in class this year. Some of the information you can find on my webpage includes: a calendar of homework assignments, tests, and project due dates. I hope this will help parents stay “in-the-loop” and avoid the frustration of not knowing whether or not their child has homework, tests, or projects coming up. To access this page, please go to wrms.hcbe.net. Under the “Welcome” tab, click on “Faculty and Staff Directory,” then scroll down and click on my name. You can navigate through the different features of the page by clicking on each link at the top of the home page.

Academic Grading Scale - Excellence without Excuses

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ❖ Major Assessments 40% | ❖ Daily Grades 20% |
| ❖ Minor Assessments 30% | ❖ Final Exams 10% |

Classroom strategies such as cooperative learning groups, peer tutoring, portfolio evaluation and cross-curricular explorations will be incorporated into the curriculum design. We will also utilize Google Classroom for assignments and virtual learning as needed.

Models of classroom instruction may include, but will not be limited to:

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|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Class discussions | 5. Experiments/Lab activities | 8. Student presentations |
| 2. Lecture | 6. Group presentations | 9. Independent research |
| 3. Group presentations | 7. Inquiry | 10. Online activities |
| 4. Guest speakers | | |

Academic honesty is expected at all times. Cheating is unacceptable and a zero will be assigned.

Assessments: Since major assessments count 40% of each student’s average, students may retake tests, as needed, based on teacher discretion. The student will have to complete content remediation and have a parent's signature prior to the retake.

Zero's:

A zero on any assignment is NOT acceptable. Students will be required to turn in assignments when they are due. If they do not have it ready at that time, they will have the opportunity for an alternate assignment.

Make Up Work Policy:

It is the student's responsibility to retrieve his/her make-up work from the teacher. Make up work should be submitted to the teacher within a FIVE (5) day period unless prior arrangements have been made. **THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT!!!** Students will not receive credit for assignments not submitted to the teacher in a timely manner.

Life Science Curriculum:

Seventh grade students keep records of their observations and use those records to analyze the data they collect. They observe and use observations to explain diversity of living organisms and how the organisms are classified. They use different models to represent systems such as cells, tissues, and organs. They use what they know about ecosystems to explain the cycling of matter and energy. They use the concepts of natural selection and fossil evidence in explanations. Seventh graders write instructions, describe observations, and show information in graphical form. When analyzing the data they collect, seventh graders can recognize relationships in simple charts and graphs and find more than one way to interpret their findings. The students replicate investigations and compare results to find similarities and differences.

Major Concepts/Skills:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✓ Lab Safety | ✓ Classification |
| ✓ Cells | ✓ Evolution and Natural Selection |
| ✓ Human Body System | ✓ Ecology – food webs, food chains |
| ✓ Genetics | ✓ Biomes |

***Parents in an effort to improve communication, please sign up for Remind to receive important updates from me. Students have been given a sheet with instructions on how to sign up. Please include clear first and last names. Once I see you have signed up, your child will receive an extra daily grade of 100%.

SIGN AND RETURN TO TEACHER

I have read and reviewed with my child, _____, the Life Science Course Syllabus. I understand the expectations, grading and Make up work policy. I will contact the teacher with any questions or concerns.

PARENT SIGNATURE