

7th Grade – Life Science

Course Syllabus

Exeter Junior High School – Mrs. Hess

Course Text: Coolidge-Stolz, E., Cronkite, D., Jenner, J., Jones, L. C., and Lisowski, M. (2009). Science Explorer: Life Science. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

Course Description: Seventh Grade Science is an inquiry-based course designed to introduce students to fundamental biological concepts, providing practical application of scientific skills and allowing them to explore the basic principles of life science. Students will investigate various topics including the characteristics and classification of living things, cellular structures and functions, plants, and heredity. Students will also be introduced to ecological topics, including ecosystem interactions and environmental health.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will apply basic scientific principles to their everyday lives. They will also achieve an understanding of scientific skills and biological concepts that will serve as a foundation for future courses. Students will further develop their communication and interpersonal skills. In addition, students will improve their non-fiction reading skills and comprehension.

Course Topics:

Scientific Skills
Gardening/Composting
Biology
Cell Biology
Genetics
Taxonomy
Botany
Ecology

Course Assessment Tools:

Cooperative Learning Activities
Classroom Discussions
Homework Assignments
Note Taking
Laboratory Investigations
Projects
Presentations
Quizzes
Tests
Notebook Maintenance
Final Exam

Course Grading: Points of varying amounts will be assigned to the assessments listed above. Each marking period grade is based upon the total number of points earned on all assignments/assessments divided by the total number of points possible. The resulting percentage will determine your grade according to the school's grading system.

Class Expectations and Requirements:

In addition to following the school-wide rules, students are expected to:

1. **Come to class on time and prepared to learn.** You are expected to be sitting in your assigned seat when the bell rings. Come to class prepared with your textbook, binder/notebook, a pencil, chromebook, paper, assignments, and a positive attitude. **Textbooks must be covered** and returned in the same condition it was received. You will need a **2 ½ inch 3-ring binder with 8 divider pages** to use as a notebook. This notebook will be graded, so keeping it organized will be helpful.
2. **Complete all assignments to the best of your ability and submit them on time.** Homework will be assigned on a regular basis, typically nightly, and is usually due the next day. Homework may be graded for correctness and/or completion. All assignments are expected to be completed to the best of your ability and submitted on the assigned due date. **Late assignments** may be graded for partial credit or **may not be accepted** at all, depending on the assignment and number of days late. All submitted work should be your own. Working together does not mean copying answers. Offering your work to others to copy is also considered cheating. Researching does not mean “cutting and pasting” information from another source. Copying of any form is considered cheating and will be handled in accordance with the school’s academic dishonesty policy.
3. **Check Skyward.** Skyward can be a useful tool for monitoring your progress, if you check it regularly. I make every attempt to update Skyward on a daily basis. I also use Skyward to inform students and parents/guardians of upcoming test, projects, etc.
4. **Attend class.** There is valuable information discussed during class, which you will miss if you do not attend. **If you are absent or miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get what you missed.** If you are going on vacation or know about an absence ahead of time, you need to give advance notice, to provide time to gather the work you will miss. This work is expected to be complete upon your return to school, any incomplete work will be considered late.
5. **Participate.** Everyone is expected to participate in class activities, discussions, and laboratory investigations. Raise your hand and wait for permission to talk. Even if you are unsure, **ask and answer questions.** It shows that you are paying attention and allows me to judge your level of understanding. Some class activities will require you to work in groups. Failure to work cooperatively and productively could impact your grade.
6. **Behave appropriately.** You are expected to **behave appropriately at all times.** The school-wide classroom rules will be enforced. Absolutely no horseplay will be tolerated, especially during laboratory activities. For your own safety, no eating, drinking, or chewing gum will be allowed.
7. **Take advantage of all available resources.** This includes getting help from your text, the library, the Internet, and teachers. If you do not understand something, **ask for help.** I want you to succeed and am willing to address any problems, questions, or concerns. I am available every morning before homeroom and afterschool most days if arrangements are made in advance.
8. **Use time wisely.** Use **available class time** to work on assignments. Do not procrastinate. Do not wait until the night before to study for a quiz or test. Staying up late cramming before at test is not as effective as studying in advance and getting a good night sleep before the test.

By signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read, understand, and will abide by the expectations, requirements, and information outlined in this course syllabus.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____