

7th Grade Life Science Course Syllabus

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Room # 225

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goals of this course are:

- To provide opportunities to study the concepts of human biology, genetics, and ecosystems through exploratory investigations, activities, and applications.
- To provide each student with the opportunity to develop skills of observation, critical thinking, responsibility, and cooperative learning.
- To allow students to develop a cooperative scientific investigation (inquiry investigation is a team project).

TEXTBOOK/CURRICULUM

- **1st Nine Weeks** – Lab Safety, Nature of Science, Living Things, Classification and Microorganisms, Cells, Microscopes
- **2nd Nine Weeks** – Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration, Human Body Systems, and Frog Dissection
- **3rd Nine Weeks** – Reproduction & Genetics, Change Over Time, Ecosystems, Environmental Issues, Cycles of Matter
- **4th Nine Weeks** – EOY Review, EOY Test, Student-Designed Investigations

Pearson Elevate Life Science is the textbook that we will be using. Each student will have their own copy of the book that is kept in the classroom in addition to accessing the book online.

ASSESSMENT

Each student's grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

- **Practice -- 30% of the overall grade** and will include:
 - Group Labs*: 25 - 50 points
 - Notes: 20 - 25 points
 - Videos: 10 - 20 points
 - Vocabulary: 25 - 50 points
- **Performance (Mastery) -- 70% of the overall grade** and will include:
 - Individual Labs*: 50 - 100 points
 - Projects: 50 - 100 points
 - Quizzes: 15 - 50 points
 - Tests: 50 - 100 points

**Note on Labs: These could fall into either category. Students will always know before doing the work.*

Grading Scale: A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook, as well as following classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under "middle school," "Forms/Documents/Newsletters":

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 23-24 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

PROCEDURES

Daily Required Materials:

- A charged Chromebook
- Wired headphones
- 1-inch binder dedicated to science classwork
- Composition notebook
- Pencils, pens, highlighters, colored pencils
- Textbook (that is kept in the classroom)

Google Classroom:

- Students will utilize Google Classroom daily.
- Students will check their email. If it requires a response, students are expected to respond promptly to the teacher's email or communicate with the teacher at school.

Bell Ringer/Dismissal:

- Get materials ready and be seated when the bell rings. You will be marked tardy if you are not in your seat when the bell rings.
- Read and follow all instructions posted on the classroom website.
- Towards the end of class, you will continue to work until the teacher instructs you to clean up your area and prepare to leave.
- Class is over when the teacher dismisses you, not when the bell rings.

Make-up Work:

Please check Google Classroom when you are absent.

- Online assignments are given multiple days to complete; all work turned in on the computer is still due on the due date, even if absent.
- If the assignment is on paper, the student must turn it in on the day they return.
- If a student misses a test due to an absence, they must be prepared to take the test **on the day they return to school.**

Late Work:

- One-day late assignments will receive up to 60% of the grade. (Once the assignment is graded, if you earned 80%, 60% of that grade will be 48%.)
- Assignments that are turned in after one day late will not receive credit.

- All assignments given at least one week in advance will still be due on the due date, even if you have been absent.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please regularly check your Google Classroom/teacher connection page for up-to-date assignments, classwork, homework, tests, and quizzes. Please make sure to check the calendar for the correct class period.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or information. If you choose to email me, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your call. If I need to contact you, I will try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE PAGE

Please view the Electronic Signature Page posted in the student's Google Classroom using the student-assigned Chromebook.

***** PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE PAGE BY FRIDAY, AUG. 18, 2023*****