

7th GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The 7th Grade Life Science curriculum provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills to transition from elementary life science standards to high school biology standards. The course is designed to provide students with an overview of the common concepts and strands in the life sciences. **Within this course, accommodations and modifications will be implemented based on students' current Individualized Education Plan (IEP). For specific goals and objectives and instructional levels, refer to your child's IEP.** We will be using HMH ed textbook which can be accessed online via Classlink. Students have also been given an HMH ed workbook that they will keep in the classroom.

OUTCOME EXPECTATIONS

At the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Use appropriate scientific tools to observe, record, organize, analyze, interpret, write, and present the results of scientific investigations clearly and accurately.
2. Describe the structure and function of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems.
3. Explain the role of genes and chromosomes in the process involving transfer of traits to successive generations in both asexual and sexual reproduction.
4. Explain how the physical characteristics of organisms have changed over successive generations and how species evolve as a result of natural selection.
5. Trace the fossil evidences of the long history of changing life forms.
6. Demonstrate the process for the development of a dichotomous key and classify organisms based on six-kingdom system using a dichotomous key.
7. Demonstrate the interdependence of organisms on one another and their environments in a food web, competitive, and mutually beneficial interactions.
8. Recognize that changes in environment can affect the survival of organisms and how this links to the characteristics of the major terrestrial biomes.

GRADING SCHEME:

Fulton Co. Grading Scale will be used:		Students assessed on the following:	
90% and above	A	Homework	10%
80%-89%	B	Minor Assessments	40%
70%-79%	C		
69% and below	F	Major Assessments	50%

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS AND PROVISIONS FOR IMPROVING GRADES:

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

All students will have one opportunity each 9 weeks to redo/retake one major assessment. Eligibility for a redo/retake is for students who receive a 79 or below on a specific major assessment. Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a redo/retake no higher than 79. Student redo/retakes must be completed before the next major assessment is given or five school days before the end of a marking period if there is not another major assessment given (exceptions can be made for students who have excused absences during this five-day window.

All students at Taylor Road Middle School are expected to complete all work assigned by the teacher. Make-up work and missed or late assignments are the student's own responsibility.

- Our classroom is sometimes a lab environment, and it is often difficult to make-up some group activities. Students will not be penalized if they are absent on a lab day however they may need to do an alternate assignment to master the standard.
- Neatness and personal accountability are considered in grading.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

One important aspect of a student's education process is to learn honesty in all endeavors. This includes academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is defined as the giving or receiving of information among students when they are expected to be working individually, plagiarism (to take and use as one's own the writings or ideas of someone else) and other related acts. At the beginning of the year, students will sign an Honor Code. Students who fail to meet the standards of this code will receive a written Honor Code Violation form to be signed by the parent and the student. Repeated violations of the code will result in a referral to an administrator. All sources referenced in student work must be cited including internet, magazines, newspapers, and books.

The following situations would be examples of academic dishonesty:

- Misrepresenting someone else's work as one's own
- Giving answers to specific questions from a test to others between classes
- Plagiarism (to take and use as one's own the writings or ideas of someone else)
- Purposefully looking at someone else's paper during a test
- Copying someone else's homework
- Giving someone else homework/class work to copy

TEACHER/PARENT COMMUNICATION:

Our preferred method of communication is via email. Please allow 24 hours for a response. Alternate methods of communication may include notes through the student, computer generated grade sheets, telephone calls, and conferences via TEAMS or in person.

ABSENCE MAKE-UP PROCEDURES:

Upon returning to school following an absence, **it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher(s) to request make-up work.** The contact should be made on the day the student returns to school. Students will have two days to make up the classwork that they missed when they were absent. If a student's absence begins on a quiz or test day and they were present for the unit instruction, they will be expected to take the quiz/test on the day they return to school.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to be on-time, prepared for class, respectful of others, respectful of the classroom, and involved in classroom activities. Should a student not follow classroom rules, the teacher may use a variety of methods to correct the inappropriate behavior. Parents will be notified if a student doesn't correct the behavior after he/she has been given the opportunity to do so by the teacher.

Thank you for your cooperation and we are looking forward to a great school year!

"STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, NO EXCUSES"