

Course Syllabus
Jasper County Middle School 7th Grade Life Science
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Course Description:

Science consists of a way of thinking and investigating, as well a growing body of knowledge about the natural world. To become literate in science, students need to possess sufficient understanding of fundamental science content knowledge, the ability to engage in the science and engineering practices, and to use scientific and technological information correctly. Technology should be infused into the curriculum and the safety of the student should always be foremost in instruction. The Grade 7 Science Georgia Standards of Excellence are designed to continue student investigations of the life sciences that began in grades K-8, and provide students the necessary skills to have a richer knowledge base in life science. The standards in this course are designed as a survey of the core ideas in the life sciences. The life science standards include Defining Life, Evolution, Ecology, Classification, Cells, Organ Systems, Reproduction and Genetics. Students will investigate life science concepts through the study of phenomena, experiences in laboratory settings, and field work.

Instructional Goals:

The assessment of student performance is one of the most difficult and most important of all tasks performed by teachers. It begins with the identification of learning goals and subsequently involves diagnosis of student needs, provisions of effective instruction with feedback, and use of assessment results to improve learning. In fact, the best measure of effective teaching is student learning. This course is designed to provide students with the creative and critical thinking skills necessary to enhance learning. The course will address ways to assess higher order cognitive objectives and authentic tasks to improve literacy, mathematics and critical thinking skills. Students will participate in activities that enhance understanding of their world. They will participate in class discussion via in class or online format to provide feedback to peers and develop an environment of learning. Documenting student performance and progress both for instructional and accountability purposes will be emphasized. Students will reflect and provide evidence of learning aligned to Georgia Standards of Excellence. **STEAM and PBL will be used to implement learning goals, instructional strategies, and assessment planning.**

Unit 1: Defining Life

Students will be able to identify the 8 characteristics common to all living things.

Unit 2: Evolution

Students will be able to apply Darwin's theory of evolution as a series of changes over time.

Unit 3: Ecology

Students will be able to describe the relationship between organisms and their environment.

Unit 4: Biology in a Bottle

Students will be able to establish, maintain, and analyze a microecosystem.

Unit 5: Classifying Life

Students will be able to sort organisms into different kingdoms based on their characteristics.

Unit 6: Cells

Students will be able to explain the role of individual organelles and how they interact in an organism.

Unit 7: Organ Systems

Students will be able to describe the relationship between various body systems and how they help organisms maintain homeostasis.

Unit 8: Reproduction

Students will be able to compare and contrast asexual and sexual reproduction

Unit 9: Genetics

Students will be able to apply their knowledge of basic genetic principles to real-world scenarios.

Class Schedule/Procedures:

7:15-8:10 -- Breakfast/Locker/Restrooms

8:10- 9:10 -- 1st Period

9:10-10:00 -- 2nd Period

10:00 - 11:00 -- 3rd Period

11:00 - 12:05 -- 4th Period

12:05- 12:35 -- LUNCH

12:35-1:35--5th Period Connections

1:35-2:35 -- 6th Period

2:35 - 3:25 -- 7th Period

Opening (about 10 minutes)

Work/Student Activity Period (approximately 40 minutes)

Closing Activity/Wrap Up (approximately 10 min)

Resources:

.Internet resources are as follows: USA TestPrep, Quzzlet, Edulastic, YouTube, Odysseyware, PhET, NewsELA, and Google Classroom. As technology changes so will we when it comes to using the Internet for resources.

Class Expectations:

See student handbook for behavior/ discipline expectations and policies. Cell phones will not be allowed. All cellphones are to be placed in the lockers in the morning.

Grading:

The grading policy is located in the student handbook.

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Please sign and return to Burkhead / Benton / Crouse

X_____

Student Printed Name

X_____

Student Signature

X_____

Parent Printed Name

X_____

Parent Signature

Date: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____