**7th Grade Science Syllabus**

**Welcome! I look forward to meeting each of you and enjoying the year together on this adventure. The rumors are true: this is a challenging, rigorous course. But that’s OK! This course not only meets state standards and sets high expectations for you, it is also VERY achievable and geared toward making you successful. You will be very proud of yourself once you have completed seventh grade. If you need help at any time, come see me. Also, use your network of support from classmates, family and or other teachers.**

**Text:** Pearson Interactive Science, 2011 3 write-in modules: The Diversity of Life; Cells and Heredity; Ecology and the Environment

**Online text:** <http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com/> (Enter your username and password that we set up in class.)

**Website:** https://www.riversidesd.com/Domain/126 (found on [riversidesd.com](http://www.riversidesd.com), JSHS site) This site provides homework assignments and test information, as well as other resources related to the course.

**Chapters/Topics** that will be covered (some subject to change and not necessarily in order):

* Introduction to Life Science and Scientific Inquiry
* Living Things (Including the diversity of living things and a survey of the different Kingdoms)
* Cell Processes and Energy
* Genetics: The Science of Heredity and Modern Genetics
* Changes Over Time
* Ecology: Populations and Communities, Ecosystems and Biomes, Living Resources

**Teamwork:** Students, teachers and parents all have a role to play in a student’s success. Parents will hopefully be involved by monitoring homework and project deadlines, as well as checking on academic progress online. Parents might also assist in their child’s organization. Homework and test information is posted both on the classroom whiteboard and on my website. I may be reached anytime via E-mail (solomonn@riversidesd.com) or voicemail with any questions or concerns. Parents should be aware that in order for your child to be in the best learning environment possible, students are expected to have good conduct, be attentive and will not be allowed to distract others.

**Absenteeism:** Parents and students should also understand that it is very challenging for students to clearly understand concepts that were taught while students were absent and make up the work they missed. Therefore coming to class is vitally important to the learning process. I cannot emphasize this enough! See make-up policy on p.4.

**Student expectations:**

1. **Be respectful** : Any conduct otherwise will not be tolerated.
2. **Be organized**: Maintain your binder and agenda, bring what you need for class, and study a little everyday.
3. **Be responsible**: You, the student, are ultimately responsible for your educational success/failure, not your parents, not your instructor and not the students around you.  Turning work in on time or making up missed work, studying for exams/quizzes, being in class on a regular basis, etc. are almost entirely YOUR responsibility.
4. **Be open-minded and have fun!** After all, this is science class– where you get to learn and investigate by conducting experiments. I sincerely hope you can enjoy your experience in this class as you learn more about life and the world around you. Try not to approach class with prejudgments and opinions, but rather with the attitude that you are experiencing something new that you can take with you for the rest of your life.

**More Need-to-Know Info:**

**Science Buddies:** You will need to have at least 2 Science Buddies in this class. You will use your buddies to help you when you don’t understand an assignment, have a question about homework, missed class and need to find out what the assignment was, or other similar information relating to class.

Name Phone# E-mail

Name Phone# E-mail

Name Phone# E-mail

Lab Partner Phone# E-mail

**Grades:** Students are graded on the basis of academic performance in lab activities; group work; independent projects; individual binders; quizzes and tests; and homework. In addition, part of a student’s grade will be based on lab performance; class participation; following directions; cleaning up; using time wisely; behavior; being prepared and working on task. Grades will be based on an accumulation of points earned each quarter. Student work may be checked for completion or graded for points. (See p. 5)

**Accessing Grades:** Grades will be updated every week and posted online which can be accesses through Parent Portal. It is the responsibility of every student to monitor his/her academic progress in science. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment with me to discuss your grade if you have any questions or concerns*. Even though I am eager to help you, I will not discuss your grade with you during class time.*

**WHAT TO BRING TO LIFE SCIENCE CLASS**

**\*It is very important to have these items every day and**

**failure to do so may result in losing participation points**

**PEN / PENCIL**

* I strongly recommend having a pencil case to hold all your supplies.

**AGENDA**

* write down assignments and due dates from board or online

**LIFE SCIENCE TEXTBOOK (soft cover write-in module)**

(always bring unless I tell you)

**FOLDER or BINDER**

* to keep all your handouts, assignments and notes.

**OPTIONAL, but good to have:**

* colored pencils, post-it notes, highlighters, erasers, extra leads

**ROUTINES AND PROCEDURES**

**ABSENCES** (also refer to the Student Handbook)

* It is the student’s responsibility to find out what work was missed and needs to be made-up as well as get missed notes and handouts.
* Students have one week to make up a test or quiz.
* Projects and assignments due on the day of absence must be handed in when the student returns to school. If the absence is not excused, points will be deducted for being late.
* Students have 2 days to complete any work assigned during the time of absence.

**LATE WORK**

* Late work must have your name and date on it and placed into the “IN” class folder.
* Graded late work will be placed into the “OUT” class folder and students may then ask for it.
* Points will be deducted daily from any unexcused late assignment until it is handed in.
* Late homework will not be accepted without a valid excuse.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Plagiarism, copying or cheating of any form, will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for the assignment. The student’s parent or guardian will also be notified. Other actions, especially in cases of repeated offenses may result in office intervention. In addition, nothing in the classroom shall be destroyed or stolen without similar serious consequences.

**10TH PERIOD AND EXTRA HELP:** Students are strongly encouraged to see me for help during 10th period or at a time pre-scheduled. Parents are welcome to E-mail or call me anytime.

**OTHER CLASSROOM “STUFF”:** Students should not leave their seats during class. However, they do not need permission to QUIETLY get a tissue, wash hands in class, sharpen pencils or get notepaper and worksheets. Students will need permission and a pass to leave the classroom.

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| --- | --- |
| **PRIVILEGES & REWARDS*** Lavatory
* Water fountain
* Dropping lowest quiz or assignment grade
* Radio
* Movie
* Holiday or special occasion party
 | **CONSEQUENCES*** Privileges revoked
* Deduction of grade points for poor behavior
* Letter or call home to parent/ guardian
* Detention
* Office referral
 |

**GRADING**

**QUARTER GRADE = total points earned X 100 total points possible**

**Ex. 9/10 + 8/10 + 43/50 + 92/100 = 152/170 or 89.4%**

**HOMEWORK: There is no such thing as “no homework!”** Daily review is important.Written homework will be checked and count toward the student’s grade. 10 points are earned if homework is mostly or all completed and answers are reasonable. Half credit (5/10) will be earned for homework that is 50% or more completed and/or not done to minimal expectations. No credit will be earned for less than half completion or very poor work. Not all homework will be checked, nor will I always announce which assignments will be graded. Up to 10 homework assignments will be graded per quarter. ALL homework will be written on the whiteboard in the front of the class by the door.

**TESTS:** A test is usually given at the end of each textbook chapter and will be announced several days in advance. (100 points)

**QUIZZES & QUESTS:** TAKE HEED! Quizzes will be given at least once per chapter and some may even be unannounced. Daily review of notes and keeping up with reading assignments will ensure a good quiz /quest scores. (10-20 points)

**LABS:** Laboratory investigation is essential to learning about the nature of science. Labs will be conducted often and safety rules must be followed. (points vary)

**GROUP WORK:** Students will sometimes be expected to work in groups. Every student will receive an individual grade for the assignment. The instructor will partly base this on how well the student cooperates and contributes to the group.

**BEHAVIOR:** Points and privileges will be awarded to students who participate in class often, conduct themselves well, use science equipment responsibly, or go “above and beyond”. Poor behavior may result in losing points. (25 - 50 points, but you can earn more than that!)

**OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:** Other work, such as worksheets, puzzles, study games and activities may also be graded. (points vary)

**FINAL EXAM:** A final exam will be given at the end of the year and will be comprehensive. Students will have an opportunity to review beforehand. (150 - 200 points)

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**Return to Mrs. Solomon by Monday**

**Please sign below indicating that you and your parents have read and understand the attached information.**

**(Please print your contact information neatly!)**

Student’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the best time to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to reach you? \_\_\_ home phone \_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_ cell phone

I have read the Life Science information pages with my parent/guardian. Our signatures below show that we understand the behavior and academic expectations of this class.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian Signature Student’s Signature

**Please share any additional information that you feel help me promote your child’s learning of science:**