Course Syllabus and Expectations

Life Science

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As science teachers, our instructional approach will include scientific investigations, technology, and STEM education. AMSTI (Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative) modules, lab activities, and National Math and Science Initiative, formerly Laying the Foundation, lessons will be incorporated into the science curriculum. Students will develop an appreciation for the importance of diversity of life, while simultaneously understand the impact their roles play in the community.

Textbook on line
Pearson Interactive Life Science

Purpose
Seventh Grade Science students will explore and question new ideas. A blending of the hands-on inquiry approach and technology will lead their learning experience to a greater understanding of science concepts.

2015 ALABAMA COURSE OF STUDY OBJECTIVES

Individual content standards are organized according to the disciplinary core ideas in the Life Science domain.

- From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
- Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
- Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Unity and Diversity

REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are required to maintain an interactive science notebook with all daily and homework assignments kept in sequential order by date and assignment title. If the notebook is lost, it must be recreated by the student on his/her own time.
2. Students may be required to complete one or two at home projects. Instructions will be sent home in ample time to complete.
3. In addition to the online textbook, students will use A.M.S.T.I. kits and will participate in N.M.S.I. (National Math and Science Initiative) lessons which are geared toward pre A.P. science students. In some science classes these lessons may be modified to meet the needs of the students.
4. Students will complete individual and group assignments. Students will be required to work with all of their classmates in a group setting at some point during the year.
5. Students must sign and return the Course Syllabus/Science Safety Contract Acknowledgement page in order to participate in lab.
6. Students will need to bring paper and pencil each day for activities that are not done on the computer. Please bring only erasable materials to write with. No permanent ink or liquid correction fluid is allowed. These items will be taken if they are being used in class.
7. Computers must be kept on the assignment that is being done. Absolutely no games or other assignments may be done during class that were not assigned for that time.

EVALUATION / GRADING POLICY

- 60%: Summative Assessment which includes performance based assessments, labs, projects, all of which directly reflect course standards.
- 40%: Formative Assessment which includes in-class and homework assignments that directly reflect course standards.
- Assignments will be posted on Edmodo.
- Grades will be posted on INOW each week.
- A “1” in INOW will show incomplete work due to an excused absence and the students will have the opportunity to make-up missed work. It is the students’ responsibility to get class notes, homework assignments and making up tests/quizzes. The HCS Policy will be followed.
- Late work is any assignment for which the student was in attendance both on the date it was assigned and the date that it was due, but for some reason, the student fails to turn the assignment in on the due date. Late work must be turned in; however, 10 points will be deducted for each day it is late for up to three days. After three days, the assignment will receive a zero.
- Missed quizzes and/or tests will be made up before or after school or possibly during my planning time. It is the students’ responsibility to set up the date and time with the teacher.

UNITS OF STUDY

1st Nine Weeks Standards: 1,2,6,7
2nd Nine Weeks Standards: 13,15,16
3rd Nine Weeks Standards: 11,12,14,17,18,19
4th Nine Weeks Standards: 8,9,10,14

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Be prompt to class, and ready to work when the bell rings.
- Listen and follow directions
- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- Respect yourself, others, and school property (internet use)
- Come to class prepared and be responsible for completing and handing in your work on time.
- Demonstrate Pride

P.R.I.D.E EXPECTATIONS

Hallway Expectations:
- Quiet feet in the hallway
- Always walk on right side
- Yield for younger students
• Hands, feet, objects off wall
• Appropriate voice level

Stairwell Expectations:
• Always walk on right side and step on each step
• Hands and feet to self
• Appropriate voice
• Use handrail appropriately

Café:
• Walk through café line to gather all items the first time.
• Remain seated with class until teacher dismissal (all students will dispose of trash as a class when dismissed).
• Use appropriate voice.
• Restroom students before/after lunch
• Use table manners, clean up your area and assist others.

Restroom:
• Respect the privacy of others.
• Keep restroom clean.
• Take care of business and return to class quickly.
• Go, flush, wash, leave.
• Report any issues/problems to an adult.

Entering School (7:30-7:45):
• All students reading/working quietly in their designated areas (Cub Circle entry: Pre-K – 8th: Sitting outside hallways. Roar Road/Lion Lane entry: 6th- 8th working quietly in café.)
• Only students with passes may exit arrival areas.

Dismissal:
• Teachers dismiss all students as the intercom process begins to call students.
• All students must remain in classrooms until their dismissal time.
• All laptops properly shutdown by 3:00 dismissal.
• Gather all materials before leaving classrooms

I look forward to a rewarding and exciting year. If you have any questions about the syllabus, please feel free to call or email me.

Thank you,
Mrs. Graves
Parents should read and sign the Course Syllabus / Science Safety Contract Acknowledgement Page and return it to me during Science Class. A copy of this page is shown below. This should have been brought home for your signatures. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 428-7780 or by e-mail: melissa.graves@hsv-k12.org.

Course Syllabus/Science Safety Contract Acknowledgement

I have read the course syllabus and Science Safety Contract, posted on Edmodo, with my child and understand the requirements and evaluation procedures for this required course.

Edmodo Group Code:__________________________

Parents Signature________________________________ Date____________

Student Signature________________________________ Date____________