

M r s . T o w e r y ' s

7th Grade Life Science

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Course Description

Welcome to 7th grade science! This year we will be learning about life- how organisms survive, reproduce, interact with one another and their environment, and how life on Earth has changed over time. Science isn't simply a body of knowledge; it is a process of investigating and a way of constructing understanding about the natural world. In this class, you will be the scientists, developing your critical thinking skills and engaging in the practices that real-life scientists and engineers use everyday in their jobs. Be prepared to ask questions, make observations, communicate your findings, and have fun!

Materials And Supplies

There is no textbook for 7th grade science. Students will access class materials using the online Amplify Science platform and the class page on Microsoft Teams.

- Single-subject notebook for Science only (composition or spiral)
- A folder to organize any class paperwork
- No. 2 Pencils
- Corded Computer Mouse
- Corded Headphones
- Highlighters (green, yellow, pink, blue) & Colored pencils

Absences & Late Work

When absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed by checking the weekly schedule posted on my Teams webpage and complete the makeup work.

Late assignments are accepted during the unit in which they are assigned. The submission window closes one week after the unit of study ends. Missing work will not be accepted after this.

Submitting Absent/Late Work:

You must communicate that you have turned in absent/late work by completing the Absent/ Late Work Teams Form or send me a Team's Chat message with the name of the assignment you submitted.

- I will grade missing work every Thursday.

Class Expectations

1) Be On Time and Prepared to Learn

Bring all required materials, a positive attitude, and an open mind. You may not love or know everything we learn in this class. My expectation is that give your best effort. Remember that mistakes help us grow- learn from our mistakes! Failure is a part of the scientific process which ultimately leads to discoveries.

2) Be Respectful

Respect yourself by doing your best every day and working to build your confidence.

Respect others by actively listening, respecting differing opinions, and showing kindness. Do not interrupt the learning of your peers.

Respect our school by treating our building and class materials like they were your own. Clean up after yourself. Respect the teachers and staff. Use your manners!

3) Be a Responsible, Active Learner- Everyone Participates

You are responsible and accountable for your learning. Your grade is a direct reflection of that. It is up to you to build your knowledge and skills with the information, tools and practice provided. Be your own advocate and make sure you ask for help when you need it.

When in class make sure that you are actively participating. Everyone is expected to participate each day.

4) Limit Distractions.

Cell phone use is not allowed in my classroom unless we are using it for instruction. When you are completing classwork on your chromebook, you may only have tabs open that are required for our lesson. Remember that technology use is a privilege.

5) Use your Class Time Wisely so you don't have to take work home. I want you to get outside or explore other interests when the bell rings in the afternoon!

Consequences for Not Meeting Expectations/Rules

- 1) Verbal Warning
- 2) Time-out and private discussion with me.
- 3) Time-Out Contract and call home to parent/guardian
- 4) After-school detention
- 5) Office Referral

Course Grade

A student's course grade reflects their achievement of learning targets and their daily class participation. Each assignment and assessment is based on specific learning targets connected to the MT Science Standards. The grade consists of two weighted categories:

Category	Assignment Types	Weight
Habits of Work A measure of students' daily class participation and practice with new concepts and skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Classwork- Daily lesson assignments▪ Class participation (ex. random notebook checks, partner/group work)▪ End of chapter/unit reflections & surveys	35 %
Learning Target Assessments Opportunities to demonstrate proficiency with specific learning targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• End of Chapter Tasks• Written Scientific Arguments• Science Seminar Discussions• Quizzes• Critical Juncture (mid-unit check of understanding)• End of Unit Assessments• Final Proposals (Only applies in Engineering Units)	65%

Classroom Procedures

Starting Class

- BE ON TIME! After 3 tardies parent/guardian will be contacted and you will serve after school detention.
- Bring a water bottle and make sure you have all you need for class! You will be marked tardy if you have to make a locker trip for class supplies.
- Gather all your necessary materials for the day- chromebook, science notebook, etc. Have a seat and begin the Bell Ringer independently.
- If you are tardy, you need to get to your seat as quickly and quietly as possible.
- Cell phones and backpacks are NOT allowed in class.

During Class

- Use this time to focus on science. Be engaged, be a learner, and most importantly, be respectful of our learning environment. Help your team learn as well! Use proper lab safety when applicable.
- Please stay in your seats until my dismissal. You may not pack up early. We will use every minute of class!

Bathroom Policy

Use the restroom and get a drink BEFORE class starts. Leaving during class time takes away from the time dedicated to learning- You are responsible for what you miss.

You may not leave class during the first fifteen minutes of class or during direct instruction. When leaving class, use the sign out/ sign in sheet by the door.

Advisor

- If you need to come in to work on classwork/missing work during Advisor, be sure to get a pass BEFORE you leave class. I will not write one during advisor time.

Communication & Technology

- Teams is our homebase where I will post daily assignments and announcements. My weekly plans are also posted in Teams but this will also be sent out weekly by advisor groups. Clever is the main site students use to access the apps and platforms for all other classes. (<https://clever.com>)
- Check Powerschool regularly for missing assignments and grades. This is our gradebook.

Parents and Guardians ~

You are my greatest partner and resource for helping your student to grow and succeed. Communication is key! Please reach out if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns. Email is the best way to reach me. I am available by phone daily during my prep period (9:55- 10:49) and 2:50 – 3:15 Tuesday – Friday. I will try to get back to you as soon as possible. We are going to have a great year!

Parent/Guardian Signature _____