

7TH GRADE SCIENCE SYLLABUS

MRS. CALDERON & MRS. KUHAR

Welcome to 7th Grade Life Science! We appreciate your enthusiasm and look forward to you being a part of the science class this year. As a member of this class you have many new responsibilities and procedures to follow. Together we will explore many areas of life science that you will surely enjoy.

General Information

1. **Attendance:** Be sure that you understand the school attendance policy. You are to attend **ALL** of your classes, every day.
2. **Tardies:** You are expected to be seated and *working* when the bell rings. If you arrive to class late and without a pass you will be considered tardy. According to school rules, you earn a detention on your 4th tardy to class.
3. **Passes:** If you must leave the classroom, the least disruptive time is during the first 5 or last 5 minutes of class (or during seat work). Fill out a pass in your agenda book and hold it up for the teacher to sign. Before leaving the class, you must also sign out on the sign-out sheet clipboard.
 - a. In-class participation is essential and cannot be made up. Missed class involvement (i.e., “clicker” questions), due to being out of the classroom *for personal reasons* will result in a zero for those portions missed. (Students with excused absences will be exempt; however, they are responsible for obtaining the content covered during that time.)
4. **Dismissal:** You are dismissed from class when the teacher dismisses you! Be prepared to leave by: completing your reflection at the end of the lesson and then making sure that your area is clean, and your supplies are put away. Remember to take all of your belongings with you when you leave.
5. **Discipline:** See attached Discipline Plan
6. **Required Materials for Class:**
 - *Agenda book:* write down daily homework, projects, tests, quizzes, etc.
 - *4 Duotang folders (with prongs):* Teacher will explain how they are to be used.
 - *Pencils:* at least 2 (with sharpener, if necessary)
 - *Purple pen:* for correcting work
 - *3 Composition Notebooks:* 1 for science fair only, 2 for class
 - *Students will be expected to have ALL of the supplies on the 7th grade mandatory supply list at ALL times.*
7. **Classroom materials:** All classroom materials are to be treated with respect and maintained in good condition. Students may not leave their own materials in the desks. Desk area/cubbies are used by all classes are expected to remain clean and tidy.

Tentative topics for this year:

First Quarter

The Nature of Science
Science and Technology
Classification
Cells

**Semester 1 & 2 major project: Science fair (mandatory for ALL students)*

Second Quarter

Cells
Reproduction
Genetics
Heredity

Third Quarter

Evolution
Simple organisms
Plants & Animals
Matter & Energy in the Environment

**Unit projects: these will be discussed in detail in the second half of the school year*

Fourth Quarter

Populations & Communities
Biomes & Ecosystems
Human Body Systems

Online Text Book: available at <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/>

- Students will receive their user name and password in class. The textbook link will also be posted on Edline.

Grades:

1. Grading Scale

A = 100% - 90%
B = 89% - 80%
C = 79% - 70%
D = 69% - 60%
F = 59% and below

Grades

35% - Tests/Projects
30% - Quizzes
30% - Classwork / Homework / Labs
5% - Bellwork

2. **Assignments:** Assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class. Assignments should be out and ready to grade with purple pen when the bell rings. Assignments that are still being worked on after the bell (on the due date) will be considered late. Students may pick up their graded assignments from the “Graded Work” folder.
3. **Late Work:** Assignments are due on the due date at the BEGINNING of class. Late assignments will only receive 50% credit. (Remember, some credit is better than NO credit) You may access your daily assignment calendar by visiting the website www.edline.net. Work may not be made up after 2 weeks of missing the assignment, except when an extensive absence from class occurs with parent/guardian notification. In order to allow sufficient time for grading, NO late work will be accepted the last week before the end of the grading quarter. Any assignments still not received will remain as zeros.

Late Projects: Major projects and reports will receive a one-letter grade deduction for every day it is late. If you are absent on the day a project is due, it is required to be turned in on the day you return in order to receive full credit. If at all possible please try and have your project in by the date it is due, projects may be turned in early, emailed to the teacher or brought in by another student for the student who is out. If you know you will be out on a day a project is due, please see the teacher to make arrangements.

4. **Make-up Work:** This is *your* responsibility! **If you are absent you will have the number of days you were absent plus one additional day to make up work**.** When you return to school you should follow these procedures:
- Check with your teammates (and/or calendar) for assignments you missed.
 - Check the folders for any worksheets/notes (many assignments are also available on Edline).
 - If you need further assistance or directions please see the teacher.
 - Missed labs:** Missing a lab, does not mean that you are exempt from it! You are still accountable for the work you missed. Some missed labs can be completed at home or with the assistance of the team's data (this does not mean that you may "copy" the team's lab, only the *collected data/observations* may be used). Other labs cannot be made up due to their nature and will require an alternative assignment in order to receive credit. The lab alternative will be determined by the teacher.
 - Mark all make-up work as "Make-up Work" and make sure that your paper has the proper heading and topic.** Be sure to include the **date(s)** you were absent.
**Major projects, papers, and all tests are due the day you return.
5. **Extra Copies/Lost papers:** It is the student's responsibility to acquire any missing/lost work. All extra copies for the current topic are available from the "extra copies" folder and most are also available on Edline. Extra copies of assignments are available in class up until the test on that topic.
6. **Extra Credit:** As occasions arise, extra credit opportunities may become available. These opportunities will be announced in class, posted in the classroom and/or posted on Edline. All extra credit assignments will be at the teacher's discretion. Extra credit is not given on an individual basis, so students/parents should not request this from the teacher. Extra credit is not a replacement for missing or incomplete work, so the best way to improve grades is by staying on track with assignments and quizzes/tests.
7. **Cheating:** Cheating in any form will NOT be tolerated and will result in zero credit for that assignment and a detention. This includes copying another person's work. When using the in-class response system (clickers), students may not discuss or share their answers with classmates (unless instructed otherwise); obtaining or sharing answers is a form of cheating.
8. **Labs:** Students are expected to follow ALL school, classroom, and lab safety rules/procedures during a lab. **ABSOLUTELY NO HORSEPLAY IS PERMITTED.** Students that do not follow procedures during a lab will be removed from the lab and will have to write the lab safety rules (to be signed by a parent) as a consequence. Students will still be expected to make up that portion of the lab or may be assigned an alternative assignment (at teacher's discretion). As a result, the student will not earn higher than a C on their lab.
9. **Quizzes:** Will occur from time to time and will be based on the current material being taught. Pop-quizzes can (and will) occur at any time.

10. Testing: It is important that you have sufficient time and a quiet space to take a test or quiz. It is also important that you study and that you come into a testing situation **PREPARED**. To help you during testing it will be important for you to follow the following steps:

1. *Get a good night's sleep, and eat a good breakfast.*
 2. *Begin your test when the teacher tells you to start.*
 3. *If something is missing or unclear on the test, ask the teacher for further clarification, do not ask your neighbor.*
 4. *Keep your eyes on your own paper at all times.*
 5. *Remember that talking during a test is considering cheating.*
 6. *When you finish your test, follow the teachers instructions for turning it in, then you may read quietly for the remainder of the class period.*
- All tests that earn below a 70% must be signed by a parent and returned to the teacher. Students who earn below a 60% on a test have the opportunity to improve their score if they:
 - a. Return the test signed by a parent.
 - b. Turn in the completed/corrected study guide with a parent signature (or book review for quizzes).
 - c. Re-take the test and earn a higher grade, up to a C. This must be arranged **ahead** of time with the teacher to avoid taking away from class time.
 - If you are not in class the day of a test, that test is to be made up the day you return back to class. If you know you will be out ahead of time, please schedule a time to take the test.

Contacting the teachers:

The best way to contact the teachers is via email. Mrs. Calderon can be reached at JuliaCalderon@ssas.org and Mrs. Kuhar can be reached at SaraKuhar@ssas.org.

Responses to emails by parent(s) or student will be returned within 24 hours, unless the teacher is absent from school. Phone calls and email will not be answered on the weekends or during school breaks. Please be aware if an email is sent on a Friday, you will not receive a response until Monday.

Parents may also contact either Mrs. Kuhar or Mrs. Calderon by calling the school and leaving a voicemail. The school's number is 941-330-1855; Mrs. Calderon's extension is 209 and Mrs. Kuhar's extension is 136. Please be aware that calls will most likely not be returned during school hours due to the room's location in the cafeteria. Again, e-mail is the best way to get in touch with either teacher. To request a parent/teacher conference, please contact the teacher to schedule a date and time.

Remember that these guidelines are for your benefit to help you be successful in science. Good luck and have a great year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kuhar and Mrs. Calderon
7th Grade Life Science

Syllabus is subject to change
Science Fair Due Date Timeline:

| Assignment | Assignment Description | Suggested Time to Complete this Step | Due Date |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| Topic Checklist | Students research topics and narrow it down. They submit the topic checklist with parent and student signatures. | 14 days | 9/2/11 |
| Problem Statement/Question | The specific question the student will be investigating in the project. | 7 days | 9/9/11 |
| Research Index Cards & 3 Sources | The Research Index Cards are used to guide you in doing background research. You should have all bibliographic information for each of the 3 (or more) sources of information (author, date, publisher, website, etc.). Your teacher will go over with you what they require for this assignment. | 7 days | 9/16/11 |
| Variables and Hypothesis | Variables are the factors that will be changed during the experiment (includes IV, DV, and CVs). The hypothesis is a one-sentence statement that predicts the outcome of the experiment. | 3 days | 9/23/11 |
| Background Research Paper & Bibliography | The purpose of the Background Research Paper is to provide information to help understand why the experiment turns out the way it does. The bibliography is the list of information sources in MLA format. | 12 days | 9/28/11 |
| Materials and Procedures | A detailed list of the materials that will be used to conduct the experiment and the detailed steps that will be followed during experiment. | 7 days | 10/4/11 & receive forms |
| Forms & Research Plan | Completed ISEF Forms and Research Plan (includes Problem Statement, Hypothesis, Materials & Procedures, Bibliography). | 7 days | 10/11/11 |
| Conducting the Experiment | This is the period of time that students are actually doing their experiment and collecting data. Minimum of 3 trials. If students are working with plants, they should have 3 plants for each variable tested. | 14 days | 10/12/11 – 10/28/11 |
| Data Analysis and Graphs | The analysis of the experimental data. A summary of the findings of the experiment in graph form. | 7 days | 11/4/11 |
| Conclusions | An explanation of the results of the experiment. | 7 days | 11/11/11 |
| Abstract | A 250 word description of the entire experiment. | 2 days | 11/14/11 |
| Final Project (Report, Display Board, & Log Book) | The final report includes all written elements of project submitted as a final report. Display board, Final Report in Folder, and Log Book are all turned in. | 3 days | 11/16/11 |
| School Science Fair | The date of the SSA+S Science Fair. | | 11/29/11 |
| County Science Fair | The date of the Sarasota County Science Fair. | | TBA |

Basic Classroom Procedures for 7th Grade Science

When entering the classroom:

1. Take care of personal business *before* entering class (restroom, water, sharpening pencils, etc.)
2. Enter quietly and politely
3. Sit in your assigned seat
4. Take out all class supplies from your backpack and place on your desk
5. Place backpack on floor – you will NOT be allowed to access your backpack after the bell rings
6. You should have on your desk: opened agenda book, green science folder, composition notebook, and your pencil pouch (with pencils and sharpener or extra lead) ONLY – everything else stays in your backpack
7. Read the board for bell work assignment, daily agenda, and homework assignments
8. Silently begin working on your first assignment for class (Bell Work)

Bell work:

1. Bell work assignments will be posted on the board at the beginning of every class
2. Begin bell work immediately after taking your seat – **before the bell rings!**
3. You have until the teacher is done with taking roll to complete your bell work
4. The teacher will come around and check your bell work assignment for completion

Quiet signal – “Give me five”:

1. The quiet signal is when my hand is raised above the teacher’s head
2. When you see this, it means:
 - o Eyes on the speaker
 - o Be quiet
 - o Sit or stand still
 - o Hands free (put things down)
 - o Listen!
3. This applies to any adult who enters the classroom (other teachers, administrators, speakers, etc.)
4. Never speak when someone else is speaking (this means teachers, other students, the announcements, or any other person visiting our classroom)

Bathroom passes:

1. You are expected to use the time between classes to visit the restroom or get a drink
2. You should not leave the classroom while teacher is speaking to the class or during a student presentation
3. Only one student is allowed to leave the classroom at a time
4. If you need to visit the restroom, please raise your hand with the agenda, silently (you do not need to ask out loud)
5. Once the teacher permits you to go, fill out the designated pass section of your agenda book and bring it to the teacher for a signature
6. You must fill out the sign out sheet (by the door) before leaving and upon your return
7. Please leave and enter the classroom quietly

Last five minutes of class:

1. Every day, we will spend the last 5 minutes of class writing reflections on the day’s lesson
2. Please stay seated, quiet, and on task during this time
3. When reflection is completed, student may pack up quietly
4. During this time, please check your surrounding work area and make sure it is free of trash and clutter
5. Remember, the teacher will dismiss the class – NOT the bell

** Bring this syllabus & procedures packet with you every day to class. When you do not follow procedures correctly, you will be asked to review this list (and possibly copy it) and then practice the procedure again.

You are responsible for following all of the classroom procedures every day. This applies even when someone else is running the classroom (other teachers, substitutes, administrators, etc.)

Discipline Plan For 7th Grade Science

Rules:

1. Be respectful (to self, others, and property)
2. Be prompt
3. Be prepared
4. Be productive

Consequences:

1. The “Look” or verbal warning
2. Rules writing assignment and parent notification
3. Behavior Essay with signature from parent
4. In school morning detention
5. County Referral

Student or parent refusal for student to write classroom rules or behavior essay, and also a refusal to do a morning detention will be considered to be a fifth offense.

If an offense, at the discretion of the teacher, is severe enough, the first two steps can be omitted resulting in the third step, as long as a phone call from the teacher accompanies this action of discipline. Zero-tolerance behaviors will immediately be a fifth step offense.

* Students are not permitted to “tell” the teacher how the discipline plan should be administered.

Rewards:

- Compliments (daily)
- Stickers & Stamps (randomly)
- More hands-on activities (throughout the school year)
- Extra Privileges (throughout the school year)
- Science Game Day (randomly)
- Happy teacher, which means happy students!

STUDENT: I have read this classroom discipline plan and understand it. I will honor it while in Mrs. Kuhar’s and Mrs. Calderon’s Class.

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

PARENT(S): My child has discussed the classroom discipline plan with me. I understand it and will support it.

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

TEACHER: I will be fair and consistent in administering the discipline plan.

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

****IMPORTANT****

PLEASE KEEP THIS SHEET IN YOUR BINDER AT ALL TIMES