

Cedar Grove Middle School

2300 Wildcat Road
Decatur, GA 30034

7th Grade Life Science

Life Science Course Description

This course is designed to teach students the structure and function of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems through hands on and laboratory based activities. Students will also have an opportunity to learn about their own heredity and genetic make-up as they recognize how biological traits are passed on to successive generations. Students will investigate the diversity of living organisms and how they are compared scientifically.

During the second semester of this course, students will investigate the diversity of living organisms and how they can be compared scientifically. They will demonstrate the process for the development of a dichotomous key. In addition, students will classify organisms based on a six-kingdom system and a dichotomous key. Students will examine how organisms depend on one another and their environment. They will demonstrate in a food web that matter is transferred from one organism to another and can recycle between organisms and their environments. Students will categorize relationships between organisms that are competitive or mutually beneficial. Lastly, describe the characteristics of Earth's major terrestrial biomes (tropical rain forest, savannah, temperate, desert, taiga, tundra, and mountain) and aquatic communities (freshwater, estuaries, and marine).

Textbook: Holt Science & Technology: Life Science/Cost: \$67.75 – If the textbook is lost, stolen, or damaged (which includes missing or marked out barcode), it is the student's responsibility to pay for the book before a replacement book is issued. Students will be allowed to use a book in class when needed; however, the book cannot be removed from the classroom. In the event that the lost book is found, and the student has a receipt showing payment for a lost book, a refund for the book will be made. **Please retain all receipts.**

Outline of Course – Fall Semester 2009

August 17-October 16, 2009 = Cells/Functions

October 19-November 27, 2009 = Heredity

November 30-December 18, 2009 = Evolution

Spring Semester 2010

January 5-February 12, 2010 = Classification

February 15- March 26, 2010 = Relationships Among Organisms

March 29- May 21, 2010 = "Tying it all Together"

Description of Standards:

The Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for 7th grade Life Science will be taught during this course. Please refer to the Georgia Performance Standards for detailed listings of standards. (www.georgiastandards.org)

Grading Scale		Weighted averages	
100-90	A	Classwork	30%
80-89	B	Lab/ Lab Reports	20%
71-79	C	Homework	10%
70	D	Projects/Portfolios	10%
69 and below	F	Test/Quizzes	20%
		Final	10%

Policies / Regulations

It is the policy of the DeKalb County School System is as follows:

- **Homework-** Homework is utilized for reinforcement of scientific concepts discussed in class. You can expect homework to be assigned several nights a week. Each assignment is expected to be completed as assigned and turned in on the designated date.
- **Late work -** It is the policy of the DeKalb County School System that students will receive a denotation of “I” (Incomplete) for any missing assignments until student work is completed. Student work must be completed within the **prescribed time limit**. The maximum point allotment will be 70%.
- **Make-up work-** Announced work, such as homework, quizzes and major assessments are due the day the student returns. For each day’s excused absence, students will have one day to make up missed work. If a student is absent under extenuating circumstances, special arrangements can be made to make up work. **IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THE CALENDAR AND/OR REQUEST MISSED WORK.**
- **Academic honesty-** Receiving or giving information for an assignment is cheating and when caught in the act students will not receive credit nor receive the opportunity for a chance of make-up. ***Plagiarism is not acceptable:*** If a student takes information from the Internet or any printed resources without a citation, it is considered plagiarism and will result in a reduction in grade.
- **Safety Net Opportunities- Any opportunity afforded to students to ensure mastery of required standards.**
 - Conferences: Parent Conferences may be scheduled, through the counseling department, during planning. Safety Net Tutorials will be scheduled by the teacher. This time is also allotted for students who may need to revise submitted assignments.

- Make-up packets: For students missing school for **excused** absences (i.e., medical reasons, family emergencies, etc.), make-up packets will be provided for those students to complete missed assignments.

Required Supplies for all 7th grade Life Science Students:

Pencils/ Black pens, notebook paper, 1 ½-2 inch 3 ring-binder, composition notebook, 8 tab dividers for notebook (mandatory), graph paper, colored pencils, and a white lab coat (optional but **highly** recommended). We utilize lab coats in **all** laboratory activities as a protective measure. Used coats are available in limited supply.

additional supplies may be needed depending on lab activities

Expectations / Consequences / Discipline- Students must adhere to the DCSS Student Code of Conduct, as well as specific class rules.

Class Rules:

- Follow instructions given by the teacher at the time they are given.
- Respect yourself, your teacher, and your classmates at **all** times.
- Raise your hand to gain the attention of the teacher to speak, be heard, or leave your seat unless otherwise stated.
- Toys, gum, candy, food, electronic devices, cell phones and drinks are **NOT** allowed in this class.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS:

1. Students are expected to complete an independent research paper that leads toward a science fair project. This will require outside research. More detailed information is forthcoming.
2. **BONUS ASSIGNMENTS** – Students may complete up to ten assignments at anytime throughout the semester for **BONUS** points. These assignments must be done before the end of the semester to receive credit.
 - a. Read a science related newspaper/magazine article. **Type** a half-page summary of the entire article. List the author, title, and date of the article at the top of the summary. Attach the newspaper article to the typed summary. (20 points)
 - b. Watch a science related TV program such NOVA, National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, or The Learning Channel. **Type** a one-page summary of the entire program. Be sure to include the title of the program. (50 points)

Helpful websites and other resources

www.doe.k12.ga.us

<http://www.georgiastandards.org/> (See GPS for Parent's section)

*The teacher reserves the right to adjust the course work and/or differentiate instruction as needed to meet the needs of students and ensure academic success.

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Signature page / Parental contact information

Students and Parents/Guardians, by signing this syllabus, you are hereby considered knowledgeable of the requirements outlined in the **Life Science course** syllabus. Please govern yourselves accordingly.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Address

Day Time Phone # (_____) _____ Cellular Phone # (____) _____

Home Phone # (_____) _____ Other Phone # (____) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Teacher's Signature

Date _____

(The teacher's signature verifies that the syllabus was signed and return by the required due date, August 13, 2009).