

Century Middle School 7th Grade Life Science

2014-2015

Contact Information:

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I will be doing my best to post assignments, notes, and other materials on my school website for student access.

Course Description and Objectives:

In 7th grade, the topics covered will be related to Life Science. The course will be a map from the smallest forms of life to the broadest. It will begin with covering the chemistry of life and progress into cells and their processes. From there, genetics will be taught, followed by evolution. The year will end with a unit on the classification of organisms and ecology. By the end of the year, students will understand:

1. Matter is made up of atoms and molecules provide the basis for understanding matter.
2. Tissues, organs, and organ systems are made of cells and function to serve the needs of all cells.
3. All living organisms are composed of cells which carry on the functions of life.
4. Reproduction is a characteristic of all organisms and hereditary information is passed on in genes through reproduction.
5. Individual organisms with certain traits in particular environments are more likely to survive and reproduce.
6. Natural systems include a variety of organisms that interact in several ways.
7. The flow of energy and the recycling of matter are essential to a stable ecosystem.

Course Expectations and Class Rules:

This classroom, its expectation, and its rules will be based on the principle of respect. There will be four “team” themes that students will be expected to follow:

- Try their best to do their best
- Encourage and respect others
- Actively participate
- Mind and materials are prepared and ready to go

From these themes and overall expectations come 5 simple class rules that will be followed:

1. Do not talk over the teacher or other students.
2. Ask permission to leave your seat during instructional time.
3. Refrain from gum or food in the science classroom. This is lab safety!
4. Be seated and ready to go at the beginning of class and wait to be dismissed at the end.
5. Cell phones are a distraction and need to be put away, out of sight.

Class Structure:

The beginning of each class will begin with a “Bellringer”. Students will have work to be doing as soon as they enter the classroom. A short discussion will occur about the Bellringer and then the main lesson will begin. The main portion of class may include any of the following: discussion, reading, labs, activities, lecture, stations, experiments, etc. There will be a focus on inquiry based learning in which students will discover the concepts through hands on learning. Many units will end with a project or cumulative test with smaller quizzes or other forms assessments throughout. Finally, students

will be using interactive notebooks throughout the year. These notebooks will contain teacher provided information along with space for students to reflect, analyze, and record their own learning.

Materials Needed:

Students will have two separate books throughout the year. The books are workbook style so that students can write in them. The two books will be Cells and Heredity and The Diversity of Living Things. Other materials that students need to come prepared with each day include:

- Writing Utensil
- Science Notebook
- Textbook
- Any other specific materials for that day

Grading and Late Work Policies:

A 94-100% A- 90-93%

Weighting:

B+ 87-89% B 83-86% B- 80-82%

Tests: 30%

C+ 77-79% C 73-76% C- 70-72%

Projects: 25%

D+ 67-69% D 63-66% D- 60-62%

Quizzes:15%

F 0-50%

Assignments/Labs: 15% Homework: 15%

Students will be able to correct any homework assignments turned in on time for up to full credit. They will have until the day of the test to turn in their corrections.

Late work in science will receive a penalty of 10% off of the total point value of the work. For example, a 20 point assignment would be docked 2 points. Any assignments less than 10 points will be docked 1 point.

Academic Honesty:

There will be no tolerance for cheating in this class. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for that piece of work and will also receive a greater consequence. Cheating can be defined as not citing information, plagiarism, forgery, copying, sharing answers, and passing information that is not yours as your own.

I am very much looking forward to this school year! If there are ever any questions, comments, or concerns that you have regarding this class, please feel free to contact me!

I understand and accept the above information. Please sign and return by September 4, 2014.

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____