



Life Science 2018-2019

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Parent/Student Communication: Homework, projects, classroom notes or other science specific information will be posted on Canvas, email and the team website (<https://jefferson.apsva.us/penguins-team-7th-grade/>)

Course Description:

The 7th grade science curriculum centers on an exploration of life at both a microscopic and macroscopic level. This includes an examination of cells and DNA, the basic principles of genetics, a survey of the major groups of living organisms and finally how these organisms interact within their natural environment. Simultaneous with content learning, students will work to develop an awareness of the scientific method, experimental design, research, and analysis. The course requires students to collaborate effectively with others, practice good written and oral communication, think critically, and become active problem solvers.

IBMYP science units have been designed to add a global dimension to student learning by using the IB Middle Years Program (IB MYP) **global contexts** to provide for real-world connections. Our approach also connects science to other curricular areas through the exploration of specific **concepts**. Students develop and improve cross-disciplinary skills of communication, collaboration, research, through practice and reflect on their **approaches to learning skills**. In keeping with the International Baccalaureate philosophy, a major aim of this course is to foster within students an understanding of the interdependence that connects them (and all humans) with their environment, and a sense of responsibility and stewardship toward the world around them. In addition, students will focus on the many ways that the discipline of science touches aspects of the human experience. Finally, students will examine environmental issues from a variety of perspectives.

Class Expectations

Students are expected to respects themselves, respect others, respect school property and focus on their learning by...

- being on time and prepared with **fully charged** iPad and a writing utensil **every day**
- maintaining an organized science section in their binder
- following teacher instructions the first time they are given
- following safety protocol - (including no food or drink in the lab except water)
- giving their very best effort on all their work
- treating classmates with kindness and respect
- participating actively, asking questions, and self-advocating

Resources:

- McGraw Hill *Life Science*, Prentice Hall *Life Science*
- Newspapers, science magazines, videos, reference books, library research materials, and internet resources
- Canvas

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to adhere to the TJMS Academic Honesty Policy. See the TJMS Student Handbook for more information.

Science Fair

All students are required to plan a Science Fair project and participate in the classroom Science Fair. A selected few will be chosen to participate in the TJMS Science Fair. All students are also encouraged to enter the Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS).

Canvas

- Students are expected to login to Canvas daily in order to access materials for class, announcements, homework, and other resources. Canvas is accessible through the iPad App or with the following link: <https://apsva.instructure.com/>
- For more specific assistance with Canvas, please see: <https://jefferson.apsva.us/technology-resources/digital-learning-initiative-updates/canvas-for-students/>
- Students should use their normal APS login for Canvas.
- Students can also communicate with me directly through the messaging feature in Canvas.

Units of Study

Unit of Study	# Weeks of Study	SOL Life Science
Scientific Inquiry	6	SOL LS 1
Cells	7	SOL LS 2,3,4
Genetics	3	SOL LS 11
Classification	3	SOL LS 1 and LS 7
Introduction to Ecology	2	SOL LS 5,6,8,9,10
Biomes /Human Impact	10	SOL LS 6,8,9,10

Grading scale: For tasks that are assessed using the IB criteria, an IB award level of 0-8 is determined and entered in the gradebook. The award level is automatically converted to an APS percentage. Please go to the IB page on the school website and select Assessment to see the IB to APS conversion chart.

Letter Grade	Percentage*
A	90 - 100
B+	87 - 89
B	80 - 86
C+	77 - 79
C	70 - 76
D+	67 - 69
D	60 - 66
E	0 - 60
I	NA

Sciences IB Assessment Criteria/Objectives

Sciences
Criterion A: Knowledge and Understanding
Criterion B: Inquiring and designing
Criterion C: Processing and evaluating
Criterion D: Reflecting on the impacts of Science

How quarterly grades are calculated:

Formative assessments (10%)
for practice

Summative assessments (90%)
to show mastery

Weight towards quarterly grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homework - Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quizzes - Unit Tests/IB Exams - Projects/Labs - Homework
Late work policy*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student work is expected to be completed on time. If you miss class, you may locate what you missed by asking your teacher or looking in the blue "absent" bin. Although your teacher will try to remind you, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what was missed while absent and to make arrangements for completion. <i>**"Extra time" accommodations are followed if included in student's IEP.</i> 	

Notes:

- Grades reflect student achievement, not behavior.
- Quarterly grades will round up when the percentage is .5 or higher.
- **ParentVUE is the best place to check for current student grades**