

Blue Ridge Middle School Life Science Syllabus

Mrs. Balio
Room A12
(540) 751-2520
mbalio@lcps.org



Course Overview:

The Life Science standards emphasize a more complex understanding of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Students build on basic principles related to these concepts by exploring the cellular organization and the classification of organisms; the dynamic relationships among organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems; and change as a result of the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation.

Materials Needed:

- 1" three-ringed binder
- Dividers (5)
- Loose leaf paper

Grading Criteria:

Grades will be based on tests, quizzes, research, projects, labs and experiments. Formative assignments (F) will be posted on Clarity and will be used to assess student progress, but will not count as part of the overall grade. Progressing summative work (P) such as labs, quizzes, smaller activities/projects will be worth 35% of the overall grade. Mastery summative work (M), such as tests and larger projects, will be worth 65% of the overall grade.

Practice is an important step of the learning process. Therefore, the students will be expected to complete practice assignments (homework) after each science class. Students are responsible for turning in work on the day that its due. Allegiance to this responsibility will help guarantee a student's success in Physical science this year. Total completion of assignments will be checked and corrected each class.

Absences:

In the case of an absence students are encouraged to check Vision or email the teacher for missing assignments. If any tests or labs are missed, the student will need to schedule a time with me in order to make up the missing assignment. Tests or labs are to be made up within three days of an absence.

Expectations of students

Students will be expected to **BE:**

RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS
PREPARED
PROMPT
POLITE
POSITIVE
PROUD

Course Agenda:

- UNIT 1 – SCIENTIFIC METHOD, SAFETY & METRIC MEASUREMENT (LS 1)
 - Scientific Method
 - Lab & Classroom Safety
 - Metric Measurement & Conversion (taught and used throughout semester)
- UNIT 2 - CELLS (LS 2, 3,& 5)
 - Chapter 1: Exploring and Classifying Life
 - Chapter 2: Cells
 - Chapter 3: Cell Processes
 - Chapter 4: Cell Reproduction
- UNIT 3: HEREDITY & EVOLUTION (LS12, LS13)
 - Chapter 5: Heredity
 - Chapter 6: Adaptations over Time
- UNIT 4: CLASSIFICATION (LS4)
 - Chapter 1: Section 4: Classification of Living Things
 - Chapter 7: Bacteria
 - Chapter 8: Protists and Fungi
 - Chapter 12: Introductions to Animals
 - Chapter 13: Mollusks, Worms, Arthropods, Echinoderms
 - Chapter 14: Fish, Amphibians, and Reptiles
 - Chapter 15: Birds and Mammals
- UNIT 6: ECOLOGY (LS6-LS11)
 - Chapter 24: Interactions of Life
 - Chapter 25: The Nonliving Environments
 - Chapter 26: Ecosystems/Biomes
 - Chapter 27: Conserving Resources

ATTENTION PARENTS

- **Clarity:** Please use the following website address to check your child's progress/grades in **Clarity** (Parent Portal): <http://www.lcps.org/clarity>
To gain access to the Parent Portal, please complete the [account request form](#) and bring it into the school or send it in with your child. Once we verify your information we will send your login and password information.

New for 2013 - A separate username and password can be issued for two parents/guardians per student. Each parent/guardian who would like their own login information must submit a separate account request form.

Please remember to change your password once you first login to the portal. Login information for the Parent Portal does not carry over year-to-year. If you had access to the Parent Portal last year, you will need to submit a new account request form for the 2013-2014 school year.

If you have any further questions please contact Ms. Smith, at (540)751-2520
gail.smith@lcps.org in the main office.

- **Vision:** Your student will also be given a login and password to access **Vision** for each of their classes during the school year. Vision is where students can get copies of notes, labs and other supplemental materials to assist them in their courses. Please use the following website address: <http://loudounvision.net> Your student's login is their 6 digit ID number (lunch #) and the password is their 6 digit ID number.
- If you have any questions regarding your child's progress feel free to call or email me. I will be sure to return your call or message as soon as possible.