

Honors Life Science

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TCMS 7th Grade MERIT Life Science
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Course Objectives

1. To learn about living organisms, as described in the Georgia Performance Standards for Life Science.
2. To learn about what science is, and how scientists investigate the natural world.
3. To practice safe and accurate scientific method activities.
4. To learn together with respect, responsibility, communication, and cooperation.

Course Description

The seventh grade Life Science course is designed to give students the necessary skills for a smooth transition from middle school life science standards to high school biology standards. The purpose is to give all students an overview of common strands in life science including needs and characteristics of living things, diversity of living organisms, structure and function of cells, body systems, genetics, classification, evolution, and ecology.

MERIT students can look forward to several learning opportunities including educational fieldtrips, frog dissections, and projects such as Scientist Most Wanted, cell models, and creature features. Students may also choose to complete a backboard for their Science Exploration, and enter it in the school's science fair as one of their two required competitive pieces.

Honors students will be completing an accelerated course in 7th grade life science with more depth in content. They will also have content that covers high school biology standards.

Student Responsibilities

- **Show RESPECT** to yourself, other people, and property.
- **Accept RESPONSIBILITY** for your work, your decisions, and your actions.
- **Be READY** in your seat, with all materials when class begins.
- **COMMUNICATE** what you think and need. Ask for help!
- **Work COOPERATIVELY** with your classmates and teacher.
- **Be PREPARED and FOCUSED.** School is for learning first, socializing later.
- **DO YOUR BEST** to do your best!

Grading

30%	Daily	Classwork and homework
30%	Quizzes	Quick quizzes, pop quizzes, and BrainPop quizzes
40%	Tests	Science exploration with presentation component, unit tests, and benchmark tests

Students will be completing several projects and laboratory investigations throughout the year. The duration and complexity of the lab or project will determine its category.

Homework

MERIT students will have homework several nights per week. Students are expected to complete these assignments to the best of their abilities. Homework will be graded. If there is no specific assignment, students are encouraged to spend a minimum of 20 minutes reviewing the lesson notes and vocabulary in their notebooks.

Tutoring

Tutoring will be available Tuesday through Thursday afternoons unless there is a conflict with my school responsibilities. Prior arrangements must be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Please refer to the student handbook concerning make-up work.

Quarterly Content Outline

First 9 Weeks

What is Life Science?, S7CS1-9
Needs & Characteristics of Living Things
including energy transformations, S8P2, SB1
Chemicals of Life, SB1
Cells *including mitosis*, S7L2, SB1
Begin Science Exploration, S7CS1-9

Second 9 Weeks

Complete Science Exploration, S7CS1-9
Advanced Body Systems
including electromagnetic spectrum and sound waves, S7L2, S8P4
Genetics, S7L3, SB2

Third 9 Weeks

Classification, S7L1, SB3
Evolution, S7L5, SB5
Ecology, S7L4, SB4

Fourth 9 Weeks

Ecology, S7L4, SB4
Enrichment Activities
Preview Activities for 8th Grade Physical Science

This course content outline is subject to change at the discretion of the teacher based on the needs of the students. Parents will be notified of content and assignments via emails and class webpage.