



7th Grade Science - Course Expectations

Welcome to 7th grade Science. Are you ready to build on the process skills and concepts you learned in 6th grade? Are you ready to perform investigations that will help you discover answers to questions like: Why can't antibiotics cure certain diseases? Why can only some people roll their tongues? Why do sunspots cause static on the radio? Why can't astronauts hear an explosion in outer space? Throughout the year you will use inquiry skills to discover the answers to these questions and much more through our theme "Living in a Human Environment."

UNITS OF STUDY

| <i>Unit</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Summary Statement</i> |
|-------------|---|--|
| 1 | Light and Sound | Construct an understanding of waves by investigating wave behaviors and properties. |
| 2 | Cells | Students explore the characteristics of living things and relate this to the Cell Theory, explain the many basic cellular functions, and construct models of the cells. and function within organisms. |
| 3 | Heredity | Identify how species acquire traits by exploring variation among living things. |
| 4 | Structure & Function of Living Organisms | Identify the characteristics of organisms and examine the complementary nature of their structure. |
| 5 | Interactions Within the Solar System | Explore celestial patterns such as sunspots, seasons, eclipses, asteroids, and comets. |

Learning Skills and Mastery Assessments

Learning and Practice: Non-graded assignment are designed to work towards mastery of MCPS indicators through timely and specific feedback. They are included on the report card as a learning skill in areas of *Participation* and *Work Completion* and is represented on the report card by consistent, often, seldom, rarely, and not observed.

Mastery: Graded assignments will reflect **individual** achievement of MCPS indicators. They are included on the report card and all assignments as a letter grade (A, B, C, D, E). Your assignments will fall into three categories: *Formative Assessments* 65%, *Summative Assessments* 25%, and *Homework* 10%. Assignments within each category of assessments will have different weights based on their importance.

Types of Assignments for both learning and practice and mastery may include:

- ☀ Tests and quizzes
- ☀ Use of technology
- ☀ Class work and homework
- ☀ Projects (individual & group)
- ☀ Safety assessment
- ☀ Keeping a science journal
- ☀ Reading explorations
- ☀ Entrance and exit cards
- ☀ Anchor activities
- ☀ Article reviews
- ☀ Inquiry projects
- ☀ Lab reports
- ☀ Lab activities/investigations
- ☀ Presentations
- ☀ Research explorations
- ☀ Making and using models
- ☀ Dissections
- ☀ Writing explorations

Overall:

Grades will reflect individual achievement of the MCPS standards for a specific marking period.

Learning Skills:

- Learning Skills scores will be divided into two categories: participation (asking questions, giving ideas, using feedback, engaging in learning) and task completion (completing homework, class work, and labs).
- Data will be collected to monitor progress in these two categories. This information will appear on the student progress report.

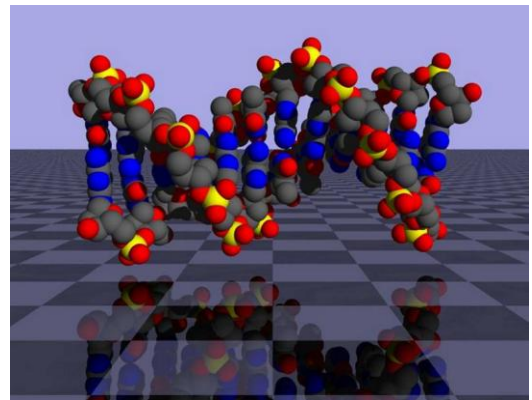
Late, Missing, & Reassessed Work:

- Each assignment will have a **due date**. This is the date by which you are expected to submit the assignment. Your grade may drop one letter grade if it is not turned in by the due date.
- The **deadline** is the last day an assignment will be accepted for a grade. Work not turned in by the deadline (one week after the due date) will be considered **missing**.
- Missing work will be recorded in the grade book as an **ZERO**.
- Reassessment opportunities are identified by the teacher before the original task/assessment and occur within an instructional unit. Only one reassessment opportunity is offered per task/assessment.
- The end of the unit assessment cannot be retaken.
- The **original** student work, along with the teacher comments and or rubric, must accompany the revised work in order to be graded.

Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit.

Communication:

- E-mail: Nicola_Ciccarello@mcpsmd.org
Andrew_A_White@mcpsmd.org
- Student handbook / Science Journals
- Progress reports / Interims
- Report Cards



Student
Signature: _____

Parent
Signature: _____