



Name _____

Investigations in Science Seven – Course Syllabus

Montgomery Village MS 19300 Watkins Mill Road
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Instructor:





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OVERVIEW

Welcome to 7th grade Science! Are you ready to become effective scientific investigators? Using what you have learned in sixth grade, you will be discovering answers to questions like: What can we do when we run out of land to plant crops for food? Is it possible to design a school lunch that is healthy, delicious, and affordable? Why do we look the way we do? And how are crime investigators able to discover who committed the crime? Throughout the year you will use inquiry skills to discover the answers to these questions and much more through our theme “Living in the Natural World.”

UNITS OF STUDY

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Content Focus</i>
1	 Hydroponics	Plants grown by the hydroponics method will be used to introduce structure and function of living organisms. The plants grown will be used to learn about the characteristics of living things, parts of the cell, and cell division. Students will also learn what materials are required by living things, how the materials are delivered, and how these products sustain life.
2	 Chemistry of Life	What do organisms need to live and grow? Students will be asked to propose a menu for use in the school cafeteria. To develop a healthy menu, students will learn that elements combine to form the building blocks necessary to grow and develop. Students will relate structure and function of body systems to nutritional requirements and disease prevention.
3	 Diseases	Students will study some genetic disorders, as well as their own genetic characteristics. They will learn about meiosis, mitosis, heredity, and be able to explain how characteristics get passed on from generation to generation. Biotechnology processes will be used, such as DNA extractions and micro arrays.
4	 Biotechnology	Students will use basic biotechnology and forensics lab skills to investigate a person who became ill from consuming a salad at a local restaurant. Students will analyze DNA, proteins, water contaminants, and chemicals to determine what caused the person to fall ill after eating the salad.

General information, including indicators for each unit, is available online <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/science/classroom/instruction/>

GRADING POLICY

Students’ academic grades are based on individual academic achievement. Quarter grades will be determined using a scale of: A: 90% - 100%, B: 80% - 89%, C: 70% - 79%, D: 60% - 69%, E: 59% or lower. We will use an array of tools to assess student learning.

Category	Weight	Description
Summative Assessments/ Unit Assessments	25%	Portions or entire Assessment may NOT be retaken. Examples of Summative Assessments include end of unit tests, and culminating projects, and culminating labs.
Formative Assessments	65%	Teacher determines which assessments can be retaken* and will notify students before the assessments. The assessment can be retaken only once. Students must complete required activity(ies) as determined by the Science Department. Examples of Formal Assessments include labs, quizzes, reading and writing assignments, journal entries, warm-ups, exit cards, quizzes, class work, homework evaluated for learning, etc.
Practice/ Prep Homework	10%	Any assignment (textbook assignments and/or worksheets) assigned for practice or preparation for instruction.

MVMS uses the “raw score conversion to percentage” method to calculate grades. Therefore, the # of points a particular assignment is worth does not impact its weight within a category (18/20 carries the same weight as 36/40). However, assignments may still be weighted within categories by assigning weights to specific assignments.

Range of Weights for formative and summative assessments (i.e. quizzes = 2-3, lab reports = 2-3, exit card = 1, or other assignments as determined by the teacher). **No extra credit will be assigned.**

Reassessment of Student Work: *Reassessment grade replaces the original grade.*

- Assessed tasks may be revised to receive a higher grade until the end of a lesson sequence.
- The reassessment grade replaces the original grade even if the reassessed grade is lower.
- Reteaching / relearning activities are determined by the teacher and must be scheduled within the instructional time.
- Assessments may be reassessed partially, entirely, or in a different format.

Late Assignments: (Due dates / Deadlines - this will be determined in advance by the classroom teacher)

- 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 will be considered missing and receive a 0%. Assignments that are completed and meet minimum standard (as indicated by the Science Department), will earn a minimum grade of 50%.

Learning Skills Grades:

In addition to the academic grade, students will receive *Learning Skills Grades* each quarter as well. Learning skills grades will assess students' Participation and Assignment Completion throughout the course. Students may earn the following grades for each of the aforementioned categories:

C: Consistently **O:** Often **S:** Sometimes **R:** Rarely **NI:** Not Enough Information

HOMEWORK and EDLINE

A set time to complete homework is a good way to help in establishing a priority at home. You can expect homework two or three times a week in science. You will be required to keep track of your assignments (due dates and deadlines) in your Mustang Data Notebook.

Additionally, students and parents should visit Edline daily for posted assignments and daily grade updates (www.edline.net). Students are expected to know their grades, and what, if any, work is missing at all times. There should be no surprises about grades to students or parents; if so, please make sure you contact me.

It would be extremely helpful to enter an active email address in both student and parent Edline accounts. If you need an Edline activation code, please contact Ms. Marable at Alice_Marable@mcpsmd.org.

Suggested Student Organizational Tools and Supplies (recommended supply list)

There will be no fees for this course.

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|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| - 3-ringed binder (Section for Science) | - Notebook paper | - Pens (black or blue) |
| - Calculator (inexpensive one to be kept in binder) | - Tissues | - Colored pencils |
| - Marble journal notebooks | - Pencils and Erasers | - Highlighter |



CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- All science students will be required to follow safety procedures as designated by the MCPS safety contract. Failure to follow the safety guidelines may result in dismissal from the science laboratory for the remainder of that class period.
- A separate sheet regarding classroom procedures, expectations, and disciplinary actions, will be provided separately and must also be signed by parents.

COMMUNICATION

One of the most useful ways we have to communicate is your child's data notebook. Please check this daily for information. I can also be reached by email or by calling the school (301-840-4660). In addition, please check Edline regularly to know if you are missing work (other communication: progress reports / interims, report cards, scheduled conferencing).



****Please sign this paper below to indicate that you have read and understand these guidelines. Review these guidelines with your parent / guardian and have them sign them to indicate that they also understand the general course description of this class.****

Student Print Name _____ Student Signature _____

Parent Print Name _____ Parent Signature _____