

7th Grade Science Curriculum Letter

September 2016

Dear Families and Students,

Welcome to 7th grade science! This year will be full of exciting labs, thought-provoking ideas and lots of learning. The 7th grade science curriculum allows students to take a hands-on approach to learning more about science. Thus, we will be doing many labs and group projects so the students can become much more involved in the content they are learning.

The curriculum this year is a mixture of biology, chemistry, physics and earth science. We will be exploring the following units:

- Unit 1 Digging In: "How do scientists work together to answer questions and solve problems?"
- Unit 2 Ever Changing Earth: "What processes within Earth cause geologic activity?"
- Unit 3 Good Friends and Germs: "How can I prevent my friends from getting sick?"
- Unit 4 Air Quality in Our Community: "What affects the quality of air in my community?"
- Unit 5 Animals and Zoos: "Are zoos more advantageous for the animals in them or the people that visit them?"

Grading Policy: Students receive two grades, an achievement grade and a work habits grade. Grades are based on the following areas.

Achievement:

- **Exhibitions 30%**
Exhibitions are projects assigned at the end of a unit/ area of study to allow students to demonstrate how much they have learned.
- **Tests 30%**
- **Quizzes 15%**
Tests and quizzes are designed to assess what the student has learned. Students are expected to use their notebook and any other materials they were given to study in order to prepare. There will be one unit test at the end of each unit and 1-2 quizzes throughout each unit.
- **Labs 10%**
Labs will be done frequently throughout the year. Students must apply and practice the science content they have learned to their lab packets.
- **Science Reading and Writing 15%**
Science articles and texts will be read critically. Students will have to write scientific claims and provide sufficient evidence to support those claims.
- **Roundtables**
Students will present on a chosen topic and share what they've learned to an evaluator. Depending on the score earned, points will be added to the overall average.

Work Habits:

- **Class Points** **45%**
Every day, students can earn up to five class points for the following criteria: punctuality, participation, the ability to follow instructions and completion of classwork. It is important to not only be in class but also to get involved by asking and answering questions and working together with the other students.
- **Homework** **35%**
Homework is assigned every night. It reinforces the material that was covered in class and furthers student understanding. The homework assignment is posted daily on the class website. The link is listed below and it can also be accessed from the Eastside homepage.
- **Assignment Submission** **15%**
Students will be graded on their ability to meet deadlines and submit major assignments.
- **Roundtable Preparation** **5%**
Students will be graded on the ability to use class time effectively to prepare and the effort put into the Roundtable presentation.

Class Website: The 7th Grade Science website is a helpful tool for students and families to stay informed. Students and families can find information about assignments, additional science resources and the daily homework assignment on the website. The link is listed below. The website can also be accessed from the Eastside homepage.

<http://eschs.libguides.com/7thgradescience>

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,

Danielle Williams
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