**Middleton Middle School 2019/20 Mrs. Hawke**

**STEM - Life Science Syllabus and Class Procedures**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

STEM is an accelerated, in-depth course which provides gifted and talented students with the opportunity to study living things. This course is comprised of all fields of science that involve the scientific study of living organisms; such as plants, animals, fungi, protists, eubacteria, and archaebacteria.

Students will learn about environmental and global issues which affect our world. Emphasis will be placed on 21st century skill development involving the reading and writing of informational, argumentative, and compare/contrast texts, as well as becoming an effective and active listener. These skills will provide students with advanced tools needed to thrive in this course.

Standards and objectives will be aligned with state requirements and district adopted curriculum; Idaho Department of Education Core Curriculum, College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards, and Idaho’s Next Generation Science Standards.

PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES:​

Referral to STEM program or GT identification.

OBJECTIVES:

​As a result of this course, you will be able to:

● develop probing questions and identify problems

● develop, plan and carry out in-depth investigations

● read and write informational text

● argue with evidence and facts

● evaluate, compare and contrast information

● identify cause and effect in systems and how these causes affect a broad spectrum

● identify patterns

●analyze and interpret data

● collaborate effectively with groups

● develop math and other computational thinking

● obtain, evaluate, and communicate information

● develop models and concept maps

● become an effective active listener and engaging speaker

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES​:

Google classroom will be your go to place for handouts and resources from class.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY: ​ If a student is absent please contact the office to let MMS know.

● Students who arrive at school after the first tardy bell should report to the main office to sign in.

● Students are allowed six (6) absences per class period during the trimester.

● Students who receive seven (7) absences in any class will lose credit unless cleared by the attendance office as extraordinary within five (5) days of the absence. Verbal communication must come from a parent/guardian within 48 hours of the absence to prevent truancy.

● These rules are per the MMS website: <https://www.msd134.org/domain/280>

MAKE-UP WORK: ​

After an absence, it is the student’s responsibility to communicate with the teacher for make-up work. They are to check google classroom first, as all daily agendas and objectives can be found there. Handouts and worksheets are uploaded on Google classroom. The student must complete and turn in work within a reasonable time in accordance with the teacher’s late work policy. [2 days make up for each day absent]

IF an extended absence is unavoidable, contact the main office to request materials to be sent home.

TARDIES: ​

Students are considered tardy if not in their assigned seats when the tardy bell rings. Tardies accrue on a trimester basis. The tardy policy incorporates the following:

● First Tardy -- Teacher warns student

● Second Tardy -- Teacher warns student, tardy notice via Skyward goes to Parent.

● Third Tardy -- Student assigned to designated detention

● Fourth Tardy -- Student assigned after school detention.

● Additional Tardies - Saturday School (8:00am-12:00pm)

COMMUNICATION: ​

If you have a question you can reach me by email [shawke@msd134.org](mailto:shawke@msd134.org) . I will do my best to answer emails within 24 hours. Students may send messages via google classroom. I do not to respond to messages after 8:30pm. However, if you are struggling with a concept, still email or send a message so I know you tried, and we can meet the next school day to clarify understanding of the concept.

Skyward is where you will find grades. Note: you can set Skyward up to email you progress reports. Missing assignments are posted and you won’t have to go into Skyward to find out how you are doing. Progress Reports will be emailed to parents on a monthly basis. I will do my best to have all grades updated and in the gradebook no later than 10 pm on Sundays. I will also meet with students one-on-one, on a regular basis to discuss how they are doing in class.

CELL PHONES: ​

Students may bring their cell phones or electronic devices to class when being used for PROJECTS. They must be turned off and tucked away, not visible or accessible during class, unless being used for said projects.

● Please note that misuse of this privilege will result in a verbal warning the first time, and loss of phone for the class period.

● The 2​nd​ time the student will take the phone to the office to be picked up by a parent from the office.

● A 3rd​ violation will result in the cell phone not being allowed in the classroom or student must return it to their locker before walking into the room.

● I do not allow texting during class.

● If you need to reach your child, please call the office and they will deliver your message for you.

COMPUTERS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Students are expected to bring their 1:1 (Chromebook) charged to class every day.

FOOD AND DRINK​:

Students may have water bottles in class. I do not allow gum, food, or drinks other than water in the science classroom/lab. This eliminates the chance of these items ending up damaging lab equipment or computers.

SYLLABUS/ COURSE PACING GUIDE:

Trimester 1: ​ Engineering Practices, Scientific Inquiry, Molecules to Organisms

Trimester 2: Heredity, Biological Adaptations

Trimester 3: Biological Adaptations (cont), Ecosystems

GRADING: ​

To determine your final grade in this course, students will acquire cumulative points. These grades will be converted to letter grades as follows: 90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70 -79% = C 60-69% = D < 59% = F

Daily work will be graded with Standards based grading: 9/10=A, 8=B, 7=C, 6=D Missing/Incomplete work= M in Skyward is marked as M.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION: ​

Some assignments will be turned in via hardcopy, in the turn in box by the main door, and some assignments will be submitted electronically to Google Classroom.

LATE WORK:

Students are allowed to turn in late work up to 2 weeks after the due date or end of the unit, whichever comes first. The student is docked 1 grade level for daily work when late. If the assignment is not turned in during the allowed time period, the student will receive a zero (0) on the assignment.

RESUBMISSIONS​:

I allow and encourage students to redo assignments for a better grade. I also allow students to redo tests. To redo a test students must complete written errors for the test and schedule a time with me to retake the test. I do not allow re-do’s on any projects.

PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC OFFENSES: ​

If a student is caught plagiarizing or cheating they will be required to do the assignment again from the beginning and parents will be notified. It will also be documented. If it happens again, the parents will be notified and the matter will be turned over to administration.