

7th Grade Life Science

High Desert School 661 269-3010

2025/2026 School Year

Find Joy in the Journey



Instructor Information

Marilynn Alford Walsh	malford@aadusd.k12.ca.us	Room 308
Science Department Chair	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (Block Schedule Periods 4, 5)	Office hours by appointment 2:30 pm-3:30 pm

General Information

Amplify Science

Amplify Science is a K-8 science curriculum that blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers.

Content of Study/Units

- Lab Safety and Equipment
- Scientific Inquiry Process
- Microbiomes
- Metabolism
- Traits and Reproduction
- Population and Resources
- Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- Natural selection
- Evolution History

Student Roles

- Scientist
- Scientist
- Microbiological Researchers
- Medical Researchers
- Biomedical Students
- Biologists
- Ecologists
- Biologists
- Paleontologists

Expectations and Goals

Students will follow class safety procedures to ensure their safety and the safety of others. Students will be respectful of themselves and others inside and outside of the classroom. Students will use their planner to keep assignments up to date and turn in on time. Students will use their 3 ring binder/Notebook to stay organized, and build skills for future classes.

Goals for the classroom are building classroom norms, setting standards, building relationships through mutual respect and trust, maintaining a safe and healthy work environment, and engaging in inquiry based-hands on activities, building self-confidence, problem solving, critically thinking, and building verbal communication skills for making a claim, arguing a case, reasoning, and validating using supporting evidence.

Course Materials

School Provided Planner

3 Ring Binder for all subjects/classes with dividers

Folder

Pencils, Pens and Highlighter

Optional Materials

Markers, ruler, colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks, tape

Absolutely No Sharpie Markers Please

All text materials are online - Amplify Science Resources

Each Unit has individual workbooks for students to use along with downloadable copies and online editable worksheets.

Students will have access to all of the materials in class through digital devices as well as workbooks.

Grading Policy

Classwork/Homework	35%
Quizzes	15%
Tests/Projects	35%
Participation	15%

Students are expected to check their grades weekly for accountability and to maintain their academic standings for eligibility in extra-curricular sports and

activities. Students are encouraged to communicate with their teachers when they need extra time to complete an assignment or need extra support in a given content area.

Late or missing assignments need to be turned in within 1 week of being assigned, and may receive a reduction in grade. Assignments not made up or turned in within the week will be graded as a zero.

It is the responsibility of the student to ask for work missed, notes, and lab materials, when they have had an absence from class. All tests and quizzes may be made up within the quarter.

Building skills for the future:

Accuracy of Measurement

International system of Units (SI Units)

Safety guidelines, Procedures and Protocols

Application of Scientific Methods and Graphing

Lab equipment uses, storage, and care

Organization

Technology

Inquiry

Critical thinking and Problem solving

Communication

Essentials: Bring your planner, 3 ring binder and a pencil to class everyday. Be present and prepared for each class session.

Parent and student signature page required

Due Tuesday 8/19/2025

7th Grade Science Syllabus

Back to School Night is on Thursday, August 28th at 5:30 pm

Parent email _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Name _____

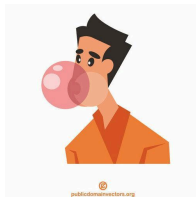
Student Signature _____

Date _____

High Desert School is a no cell phone campus during school hours. Phones must be turned off and in the student's backpack. Please contact the school office if you need to reach your child, or to have a message given to your child before the end of the day. Phones are not allowed during break or lunch, and all students are expected to follow the policy.



Gum is not allowed on High Desert Campus. Students are asked to leave the gum for after school and weekends.



Thank you for following the SOAR Matrix

High Desert Hawks

Strive to do their best

Own their Actions

Act Responsibly

Respect themselves and others

