

Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic School
Yearly Course Outline
Science/PLTW
Seventh Grade
2026–2027

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Teacher's Room Number: 203

Course Description

Medical Detectives: In the Medical Detectives Unit, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hand-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

Magic of Electrons: In the Magic of Electrons Unit, students examine the behavior and parts of an atom as well as the impact of electricity on the world around them. They learn skills in basic circuitry design and use what they know to propose designs such as a burglar alarm for an art museum.

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers: Computer Science for Innovators and Makers teach students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with the environment. Designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. The unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful application.

Integrated Science: The 7th grade science program also introduces students to the basic concepts of life, earth, and physical science. This program integrates a wide range of hands-on experiences, critical thinking opportunities and real-world application

Instructional Materials

PLTW Gateway Online Resources
Engineering Notebook

Methods of Assessment and Distribution

All test, quiz, and homework grades will be posted on PowerSchool (www.ollpowerschool.org). Please check for postings frequently. Each quarter, four test- and four quiz-weighted assessments will be administered.

1st & 2nd Quarters
(Exams taken)

50% Tests
20% Exams
20% Quizzes
10% Homework

3rd & 4th Quarters
(No Exams taken)

60% Tests
30% Quizzes
10% Homework

Grading Scale

A: 100-94
B: 93-86
C: 85-78
D: 77-70
U: 69 and below

Tentative Course Calendar

**** Dates and course content are subject to change at discretion of teacher or administration. ****

Aug 6 – First day of school for 4th – 7th

Week	Standards	Objectives (The learner will . . .)	Instructional Materials	Assessments
1st Quarter				
Week 1 Aug. 10-14 8/14 Summer Reading Due	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Review lab safety procedures and understand the basic lab safety rules. *Understand and practice procedures. *Design and conduct investigations to demonstrate understanding of lab safety	Technology: General Lab Safety Video Amoeba Sisters Flinn Scientific Lab Safety Video Worksheet: Flinn Scientific Lab Safety Procedures Handout	Quiz 1 - Lab Safety Quiz
Week 2 Aug. 17-21 8/18 PTCC Mtg 6pm	7-MS-LS1-1 7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Analyze data and evidence to craft a conclusion supported by evidence. *Measure vital signs. *Communicate to meet the needs of the audience and be appropriate to the situation. *Explore a variety of careers related to engineering, biomedical sciences, and computer science	Technology: PLTW Online Course Resources Materials: Disposable thermometers Digital blood pressure and pulse monitor Stopwatch	Quiz 2 – Collecting Vital Signs Project
Week 3 Aug. 24-28	7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Solve a problem using analytical and critical thinking skills. *Design and conduct an experiment that investigates a question. *Collect and analyze medical evidence to draw conclusions. *Collaborate effectively on a diverse and multi-disciplinary team. *Communicate effectively for specific purposes and settings.	Resources: Experimental Designs Pages Experimental Design Problems Materials: Stopwatch	Test 1: Vital Signs Test
Week 4 Aug 31-Sept 4	7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and	*Solve a problem using analytical and critical thinking skills. *Design and conduct an experiment that investigates a question.	Resources: Experimental Designs Pages Experimental Design Problems Materials:	Test 2: Experimental Design Process Test

	Engineering Practices 1-8	*Collect and analyze medical evidence to draw conclusions. *Collaborate effectively on a diverse and multi-disciplinary team. *Communicate effectively for specific purposes and settings.	Independent/Dependent Variable Task Cards	
Week 5 Sept. 7-11 9/7 Labor Day No School	7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Analyze data and evidence to craft a conclusion supported by evidence. *Develop an experimental protocol that includes a testable hypothesis, is repeatable, and produces reliable results. *Distinguish between the independent and dependent variables and define controls. *Perform necessary data calculations and draw logical conclusions from experimental data. *Interpret medical information to draw conclusions about a patient's health. *Describe and apply aseptic techniques for handling microbial samples. *Identify the classes of pathogens that cause disease.	Resources: Effectiveness of Antibiotics Experiment Activity 1.3 Disease Dictionary Materials: Antibiotic Sensitivity Experimental Design Kit Safety Goggles Gloves Laboratory Aprons	Test 3: Disease Agents Test
Week 6 Sept. 14-18 Spirit Week 9/18 Pep Rally and Fun Run Kickoff	7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS1-6 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Solve a problem using analytical and critical thinking skills. *Collect and analyze medical evidence to draw conclusions. *Analyze health and disease data to identify the source of a disease outbreak. *Communicate effectively for specific purposes and settings. *Identify the variety of careers related to engineering, biomedical sciences, and computer science.	Technology: PLTW Online Course Resources Materials: Disease Dictionary Engineering Notebook Diagnostic Detective Rubric Medical Case Resources	Quiz 3 – Viral v/s Bacterial Infection Disease Project

Week 7 Sept. 21-25 9/25 Birthday Brunch (July, Aug, Sept)	7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS1-7 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Create a model to describe the function of the central and peripheral nervous systems. *Explain how the nervous system passes signals to and from the brain and spinal cord. *Interpret how a breakdown in communication in the nervous system would impact the function of the human body.	Technology: PLTW Website Laptop Various applications to make a stop motion video Materials: Neuron Model Supplies Pipe Cleaners Straws Beads Modeling Clay Wax Sticks Straws Resources: Engineering Notebook	Quiz 4 – Effectiveness of Antibiotics Lab Report
Week 8 Sept.28- Oct. 2 10/2 – Fun Run 10/2 - ½ day dismissal	7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Explain how the nervous system passes signals to and from the brain and spinal cord. *Interpret how a breakdown in communication in the nervous system would impact the function of the human body.	Various applications to make a stop motion video Materials: Neuron Model Supplies Pipe Cleaners Straws Beads Modeling Clay Wax Sticks Straws Resources: Engineering Notebook	Test 4: Diagnostic Detective Project
Week 9 Oct. 5-9 10/8 End of 1 st Qtr 10/9 No School 10/9-10/11 Festival of the Lake	Exams	Exams	Exams	
2nd Quarter				
Week 10 Oct. 12-16 10/13 Living Rosary 10/15 CFR Reward Day 10/15 - ½ Day 10/15 - Parent Teacher Conferences 10/16 – No School	7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS1-6 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Solve a problem using analytical and critical thinking skills. *Collect and analyze medical evidence to draw conclusions. *Match regions of the brain with their primary function.	Technology: PLTW Online Course Resources Materials: Colored pencils Safety goggles Gloves Laboratory Apron Dissection pan Dissection tool set Preserved sheep brain related to your case	Quiz 1: Neuron Test 1: Neuron Stop Motion Project

Week 11 Oct. 19-23	7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS1-7 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Determine investigative questions for a case. *Interpret medical information to draw conclusions about a patient's health. *Match regions of the brain with their primary function. *Devise and execute a plan to solve a problem. *Interpret how a breakdown in communication in the nervous system would impact the function of the human body.	Resources: Medical Case Resources Sheep Brain Tumor Dissection Guide Mystery Disease Rubric Engineering notebook Technology: PLTW Website	Test 2: Activity 2.1-2.3 Test Quiz 2: Brain Diagrams Project
Week 12 Oct. 26-30 Red Ribbon Week	7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS1-7 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS2-5 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Discover how calculating attack rate helps medical professionals determine the source of an outbreak. *Introduce real life examples of Mendel's discoveries *Evaluate Mendel's experimental design and describe the results of his experiments. *Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence to describe the role of alleles in the inheritance of traits.	Resources: Calculating Attack Rate Task Cards Technology: PLTW Website	Test 3: Activity 2.4: The Control Center Test
Week 13 Nov. 2-6	7-MS-LS1-3 7-MS-LS1-7 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS2-5 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Introduce real life examples of Mendel's discoveries *Evaluate Mendel's experimental design and describe the results of his experiments. *Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence to describe the role of alleles in the inheritance of traits.	Resources: Chapter 6 Lessons 1-3 Study Guide Textbook Punnett Square Worksheet	
Week 14 Nov. 9-13 11/11 Veterans Day Prayer Service	7-MS-LS1-1 7-MS-LS1-2 7-MS-LS1-4 7-MS-LS1-5 7-MS-LS1-7 7-MS-LS2-4 7-MS-LS3-2 7-MS-LS4-4 7-MS-LS4-5 7-MS-Science and	Introduce real life examples of Mendel's discoveries *Evaluate Mendel's experimental design and describe the results of his experiments. *Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence	Resources: Chapter 6 Lessons 1-3 Study Guide Textbook Punnett Square Worksheet	Quiz 3: Genetics Vocabulary Quiz

	Engineering Practices 1-8	to describe the role of alleles in the inheritance of traits.		
Week 15 Nov. 16-20 St. Nick's Workshop	7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-5	*Gather and synthesize information to describe the model of an atom. *Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence to describe what determines an element's chemistry	Materials: Color Coded Periodic Table Periodic Table Song	
Thanksgiving Holidays Nov. 23-27				
Week 16 Nov 30-Dec 4 12/4 Birthday Brunch (Oct, Nov, Dec)	7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-4 7-MS-PS1-5	*Electron flow is created as electrons are transferred between atoms. *As engineers design electrical systems, they must understand a material's tendency toward being a conductor or insulator. *Current, voltage, and resistance are measurable quantities that are used to explain electron flow in an electrical system. *Magnets play an important role in creating electromotive force which is used to make and convert electricity. *Generators are used to convert mechanical energy into electrical energy, while motors convert electrical energy into mechanical energy.	Technology: PLTW Website Resources: Lewis Dot Diagram Worksheet	Test 4: The Science of Genetics Test Quiz 4: Genetics Snowman Project
Week 17 Dec. 7-11	7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-4 7-MS-PS1-5 7-MS-ESS 2-4 7-MS-ESS2-6 7-MS-ESS3-5	*Identify the roles of protons, neutrons, and electrons in an atom. *Explain how charges interact to hold an atom together. *Identify metals, metalloids, and non-metals on the periodic table. *Understand that within a natural or designed system, the transfer of energy drives the motion and/or cycling of matter.	Resources: Activity 1.2 Conductivity Activity UsingMultimeter.PPTX Materials: Material samples Digital Multimeter	
Week 18	Exams	Exams	Exams	

Dec. 14-18 12/18 - ½ day End of 2 nd Qtr				
Christmas Holidays Dec. 21 – Jan. 4				
3rd Quarter				
Week 19 Jan. 4-8 ¼ - No School	7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-4 7-MS-PS1-5 7-MS-ESS2-5	*Explain the relationship between current, voltage, and resistance. *Describe how electron transfer between atoms and the flow of electricity are related. *Measure voltage and current using a multimeter. *Understand that a cause and effect relationship may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems.	Resources: Activity 1.3: Static Electricity Lab Resources Activity 1.3 Conclusion Questions Lighting and Static Electricity Article Materials: Lemons Multimeter 2 leads with alligator clip Jumbo paperclip or galvanized nail Copper Wire LED Light	Quiz 1: Activity 3.2 Attack Rate Calculations Test 1: Project 3.2 Diagnostic Detective Project
Week 20 Jan. 12-16	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8 7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-5	*Describe the properties of a magnet including polarity and defining characteristics. *Explain the role of an electromagnet in the function of a DC motor and generator. *Demonstrate the characteristics and function of an electromagnet.	Resources: PLTW Website Building Materials: ¾ in. x 1½ in. x 6 in. pine board Ruler or tape measure Drill and 3/32 in., 1/16 in., 1/8 in. bits Glue gun with glue 78 in. of 22-gauge magnetic wire 20D nail Two jumbo (1¼ in.) paperclips Two #8 x ½ in. pan head screws Two 3 x ¼ in. rubber bands (similar sizes will work) D cell battery Sandpaper	Quiz 2: Periodic Table Quiz
Week 21 Jan. 18-22 1/18 – MLK Day No School 1/22	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8 7-MS-PS1-2	*Identify the characteristics of series, parallel, and combination electrical circuits.	Snap Circuits Components Board Voltage source	Test 2: Atomic Structure and Electricity Test

Birthday Brunch (Jan, Feb, Mar)	7-MS-PS1-5	*Sketch circuit diagrams using standardized schematic symbols.	Power Supply 3 Lights Various Sizes of Snap Wires Resources: Project 2.1 Circuit Design	
Week 22 Jan. 25-29 1/29 - Pep Rally 1/29 – Eve Parade	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8 7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-5	*Understand that a variety of electronic components are incorporated into electrical circuits by engineers to achieve specific functions. *Construct and test physical electrical circuits based upon circuit diagrams. Integrate DC sources, lamps, switches, diodes, light-emitting diodes, resistors, and capacitors into electrical circuits to achieve specific functions.	Materials: Snap Circuit Components Board, voltage source, and power supply Motor Fan blade Various sizes of snap wires Slide switch Push-button switch 6V/0.5A Light Technology: PLTW Website Project 2.1 Rubric	Quiz 3: Elemental Drivers License Project
Week 23 Feb. 1-5 Catholic Schools Week 2/5 Grandparents Day 2/5 – ½ Day	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8 7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-5	*Sketch circuit diagrams using standardized schematic symbols. *Identify the characteristics of series, parallel, and combination electrical circuits.	Resources: Circuit Schematics Task Cards Materials: Engineering Notebooks	Quiz 4: Current and Static Electricity Lab Report
Mardi Gras Holiday February 8-12				
Week 24 Feb. 15-19	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8 7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-5	*Understand a variety of electronic components are incorporated into electrical circuits to achieve specific functions.	Materials: Various loose resistors Sap circuits components Board, voltage source, and power supply	Test 3: Current and Static Electricity Test

	7-MS-PS 3-4	*When building or diagnosing circuits, it is important to be able to measure voltage, current and resistance. *Determine the value of a fixed resistor based upon the color codes on the resistors.	Photoresistor Thermistor Lamp various sizes of snap wires Resources: More Resistors.PPTX	
Week 25 Feb. 22-26	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8 7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-5 7-MS-PS 3-4	*When building or diagnosing circuits, it is important to be able to measure voltage, current, and resistance. *Ohm's Law explains the mathematical relationship between voltage, current and resistance.	Resources: Ohm's Law Data Table Materials: Snap Circuit Components	
Week 26 March 1-5 Book Fair	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8 7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-5 7-MS-PS 3-4	*Integrate DC sources, lamps, switches, diodes, light-emitting diodes, resistors, and capacitors into electrical circuits to achieve specific functions.	Resources: Capacitor PowerPoint Materials: Electrolytic capacitors Snap Circuits Components	Test 4: Activity 2.2-2.2: Circuit Design Project
Week 27 March 8-12 3/12 – ½ Day End of 3rd Qtr	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8 7-MS-PS1-2 7-MS-PS1-5 7-MS-PS 3-4	*Integrate DC sources, lamps, switches, diodes, light-emitting diodes, resistors, and capacitors into electrical circuits to achieve specific functions.	Resources: Capacitor PowerPoint Materials: Electrolytic capacitors Snap Circuits Components	
4th Quarter				
Week 28 March 15-19 3/18 - Passion Play	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Demonstrate creativity and courage to take risks in proposing designs. *Apply user-centered design principles when creating a solution. *Analyze the implications of computing in society.	Technology: PLTW Online Course Resources Microcontroller USB cable Microsoft Make Code Programming Resources: Interactions Rubric Wiring Diagram	Quiz 1: Reading Fixed Resistors Quiz
Week 29 March 22-26 3/26 - Good Friday	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Apply user-centered design principles when creating a solution. *Collect, process, and analyze real or simulated data. *Analyze and create algorithms.	Technology: PLTW Online Course Resources Microcontroller USB cable Microsoft Make Code Programming Resources:	Quiz 2: Resistors and Resistance Lab Questions Test 1: Resistors and Resistance Test

		*Describe the hardware components of an electronic device and how they interact with software and the environment.	LED Grid Practice Exercise	
Easter Holiday March 26 – April 2				
Week 30 April 5-9	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Recognize that computational thinking can be applied in multiple disciplines. *Design and develop a program by breaking a large plan into smaller modules using procedures and event handlers.	Technology: PLTW Online Course Resources Microcontroller USB cable Microsoft Make Code Programming Materials: Output Device Images Engineering Notebook MultiOutputEX.hex	Quiz 3: Capacitors and Schematics Quiz Test 3: Calculating Ohm's Law Test
Week 31 April 12-16	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Apply an iterative process to solve a problem or create an opportunity that can be justified. *Justify decisions and provide rationales when making trade-offs between resources.	Technology: PLTW Online Course Resources Microcontroller USB cable Microsoft Make Code Programming Materials: 2.4 Secrets and Safes Rubric Wiring Diagram Wire	
Week 32 April 19-23 4/23 Birthday Brunch (Apr, May, June)	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Identify ethical considerations that must be considered when creating solutions or opportunities. *Consider accessibility and equity when designing products, creating solutions, and collaborating with others. *Identify the variety of careers related to engineering, biomedical sciences, and/or computer science.	Technology: PLTW Online Course Resources Microcontroller USB cable Microsoft Make Code Programming Resources: Interactions Rubric Wiring Diagram	Test 3: CSIM Blink Project
Week 33 April 26 - 30 4/30 - Field Day ½ Day	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	*Identify ethical considerations that must be considered when	PLTW Online Course Resources Microcontroller	Test 4: CSIM Test

	7-MS-Science and Engineering Practices 1-8	creating solutions or opportunities. *Consider accessibility and equity when designing products, creating solutions, and collaborating with others. *Identify the variety of careers related to engineering, biomedical sciences, and/or computer science.	USB cable Microsoft Make Code Programming Resources: Interactions Rubric Wiring Diagram	
Week 34 May 3-7 5/4 May Crowning 5/6 – 7 th Closing Ceremony				
Week 35 May 10-14				
Week 36 May 17-21 5/19 – Grades Due				
Week 37 May 24-25 5/25 – ½ Day				