Welcome to 7th Grade Life Science!

Advanced Life Science Syllabus

2026-2027 School Year

Mr. C. Holland

Welcome to 7th Grade Life Science! This course is designed to help students explore the living world and develop a deeper understanding of how organisms interact with one another and their environment. Through hands-on investigations, laboratory activities, scientific inquiry, research projects, and collaborative learning experiences, students will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while gaining an appreciation for the diversity and complexity of life on Earth. I am excited to partner with students and families as we embark on a year of discovery and scientific exploration.

I. Course Description and Requirements

Seventh Grade Life Science is aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) and focuses on understanding living organisms, ecosystems, heredity, and biological processes. Students will engage in scientific investigations that emphasize observation, data collection, analysis, and evidence-based reasoning. Throughout the year, students will study the relationships between organisms and their environments, the structure and function of living systems, the transfer of energy through ecosystems, and the mechanisms that explain the diversity of life. Students will use scientific practices to ask questions, develop models, analyze data, and communicate scientific findings.

II. Overview of Standards

Major topics include:

- **Characteristics of Life**
  - Organization of living things
  - Cell theory and cell structures
  - Levels of biological organization
- **Genetics and Heredity**
  - Inheritance of traits
  - DNA and genes
  - Variation within populations
- **Adaptations and Natural Selection**
  - Adaptations that help organisms survive
  - Natural selection and evolution
  - Evidence for changes in species over time
- **Ecosystems**
  - Interactions among organisms
  - Food chains, food webs, and energy transfer
  - Biotic and abiotic factors
  - Population dynamics and environmental changes
- **Human Impact on the Environment**
  - Conservation of natural resources
  - Effects of human activities on ecosystems
  - Sustainable practices
- **Scientific Inquiry and Engineering Practices**
  - Planning and conducting investigations
  - Analyzing and interpreting data
  - Constructing explanations based on evidence
  - Communicating scientific information

III. Class Expectations

- Students are expected to **be present** and active members of the classroom each and every day.
- Students are expected to come to class **prepared** with all necessary materials and completed assignments to learn and participate in all aspects of the class.
- Students are expected to **be respectful** of their peers, the classroom, and the teacher.

III. Class Discipline

Students are expected to:

- Come to class prepared and ready to learn each day.
- Participate actively in discussions, labs, and group activities.
- Follow all classroom and laboratory safety procedures.
- Show respect for classmates, teachers, and school property.
- Demonstrate academic honesty and integrity.
- Use technology and classroom resources responsibly.
- Take responsibility for their learning by asking questions and seeking help when needed.

IV. Requested Materials

- Three ring binder
- Pen/pencil
- Colored Pencils

V. Assessment and Grading Plan

We will cover seven academic units over the course of the year. Each unit will have summative and formative assignments.

Formative Assignments - **40%**

- *Classwork/Informal labs:* Each unit is packed with engaging activities and practice to help master the content.
- *Safes*: (**S**hort **a**nd **f**requent **e**xams) These are short little quizzes that demonstrate how well the students are picking up the information. These little quizzes could be vocabulary, content, or error analysis.
- *Homework*: Most of our work will be finished in class. If the classwork is not finished, it becomes homework

Major Assessments – **60%**

- Unit tests
- Projects
- Performance activities that demonstrate mastery of the subject.

VI. Communication

I will regularly post updates, announcements, lecture notes, and assignments on my Canvas page for students and parents to access. Students and parents are encouraged to contact me via email. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours during the school week. Students are also strongly encouraged to attend after school tutoring from 3-3:30 on Tuesdays if they ever need help!

Email: **cholland@paulding.k12.ga.us**