

Mrs. Tawney's 7th Grade Science Syllabus

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Overview:

Our 7th grade Science Standards can be found on the Arizona Department of Education website pages:

Inquiry skills are embedded throughout the year.

Our units of study are:

Semester 1:

Unit 1: Explaining Newton's Laws of Motion

Unit 2: Forces at a Distance

Unit 3: Gravitational Forces

Unit 4: Weather, Climate and Water Cycling

Semester 2:

Unit 5: How and why does Earth's surface change?

Unit 6: Metabolic Reactions

Unit 7: Matter Cycling and Photosynthesis

Grades will be based on the following:

80% - Assessment

20% - Coursework

0% - Practice

The final (year-end grade) will be based on each of your grades from each of the 4 quarters and will follow the Deer Valley Unified School District's Promotion, Retention, Acceleration and Grading Handbook.

Determining Quarter Grade and Final Grade: Your student's official grade will be in Power Schools, NOT Canvas. Grades will be determined on the students' cumulative earned points and weighted by category.

Assessments: Summative tests and projects. Teacher given exams can be retaken given all formative coursework related to the content/ skill assessed is completed and turned in, the student has consulted with the teacher, the reassessment has been scheduled within ten days of receiving the assessment score, and the student has filled out and turned in a retake application.

Coursework (check for understanding): **MUST BE COMPLETED IN CLASS.** Quizzes, independent practice, assignments, exit tickets, checks for understanding, and daily activities.

Practice (in the process of learning): This category includes tasks, completed inside and outside of the classroom, that a student completes while in the process of learning specific skills.

Missing Work: An assignment is considered as missing work when it is not submitted by the due date.

All practice tasks are expected on their assigned due dates. If students are absent on a date that an assignment is due, the work is expected on the day of the student's return. If a student is on campus, but not in class, the work must still be handed in on time. If a student is absent, the student will have 1 day for each absence to complete work that was assigned while absent. Science concepts build upon each other and turning work in late could hinder students' learning of the concepts being taught. This could mean a lower level of understanding the 7th grade science standards and lower performance on assessments which will affect the overall grade.

Extra Credit: A student's grade is based on his/her performance of the 7th grade Science standards and therefore no extra credit will be awarded.

Required Student Materials:

- 1" (one-inch) 3-ring binder

Suggested Student Materials:

- **WIRED** Headphones/earbuds to use with the assigned chromebook. Our textbook is computer based, so students will need a means to listen to videos and text to speech without disrupting others.
- 1 pack of colored pencils
- Highlighters
- **Plenty of pencils and erasers**
- Helpful supplies: Markers, tissues, wipes, and ruler

* Please let me know if you need assistance with any of these items. Arizona law requires public schools to provide supplies required for academic success. This list represents optional, supplementary items which you may supply at your discretion.

Donations

Please assist the Science Department in providing more hands-on activities for your student! Donations of: tissues/kleenex, paper towels, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, 2 liter bottles, rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, corn syrup, baking soda, vinegar, cornstarch, clay, playdoh and any general classroom materials **WILL BE GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED!** Thank you!

How can you be successful in Science this year???

1. Come to class prepared with necessary materials

- Pencil (cannot use pens on assessments)
- 1" (one-inch) 3-ring binder
- A **charged** chromebook

2. Be respectful of yourself, your classmates, school property, district policies and your teacher at all times.

3. Finish all assigned work. It is YOUR responsibility to finish all work assigned in class. **If a student engages in “off task” behavior and work does not get completed, it needs to be finished at home or it will be graded as incomplete.**

4. **ASK FOR HELP IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.** Remember, I cannot read your mind. If you do not ask questions, I assume that you understand the material. The only stupid question is the one that goes unasked!

Additional Help:

Extra help is for students who are engaging in class learning activities but continue to struggle with specific Science objectives. Make sure to always complete ALL assignments, even if they are difficult, and then ask for help in class and/or schedule and attend FLASH for additional help.

Canvas (Deer Valley's Learning Management System):

Deer Valley Unified School District uses Canvas to support the district's technology initiative. Designed specifically for K-12 teachers and students, Canvas is an easy-to-use, cloud-based learning management system (LMS) that connects all the digital tools and resources teachers use in one simple place. It integrates seamlessly with hundreds of apps, empowering teachers and students with countless tools to make teaching and learning easier and more engaging. Parents can create a Canvas parent account to observe progress, view Canvas grades and sign up to receive teacher announcements and notifications. Observers can link their Canvas account to their student's account so they can see assignment due dates, announcements, and other course content. Observers can view the course content but cannot participate in the course. When your student logs into Canvas, they should go to "account", then "settings", then "pair with observer" and this will give you a code that you can use to link your parent account with your student's account.

Classroom Expectations:

- Be Respectful- Treat peers, teachers and classroom materials with respect. Listen when others are speaking and value different ideas.
- Be Kind- Use encouraging words, include others, and help create a positive learning environment.
- Be Responsible- come prepared, follow directions, complete your work and take ownership of your learning.
- Be Safe- Follow all classrooms and lab safety procedures.

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Campus Policy:

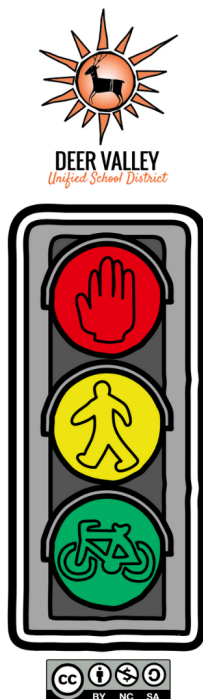
Cell phones, ear buds, blue tooth devices and other electronics are to be turned off and put away in the backpack from 7:55 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Students who need to contact a parent/guardian may use the phone in the front office. If a student is sick, the nurse needs to be the person who contacts the parent/guardian for the student to be picked up.

Academic Integrity Statement

To be college-, career-, and community-ready, students in the Deer Valley Unified School District are expected to demonstrate academic integrity. Academic integrity is all about being honest and fair in your schoolwork. It means doing work that is entirely your own and giving credit to others (including generative Artificial Intelligence tools) through proper citation when you use their ideas or words. If you have questions about the guidelines for academic integrity, you should discuss them with your teacher.

AI Policy

- In the Deer Valley Unified School District, we are committed to providing our students with an extraordinary education while ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning experiences, teachers may incorporate generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom for use by students.
- Students must adhere to the specific guidelines provided in the assignment details. If no explicit guidance is provided regarding the use of generative AI, students are expected to follow the “restrictive” level outlined in the [Student Use of Generative AI chart](#). If a student is unsure whether a tool or website is permitted, they should contact the teacher before using the resource or submitting their work.



Student Use of Generative AI

Level	Description	Example Instruction
Restrictive No!	AI tools are prohibited for the assignment, and all work must be the student's original creation.	"Do not use AI tools for this assignment. All content must be original, and any use of AI will be treated as plagiarism."
Moderate Whoa!	Students can use teacher-approved AI tools from the district list for specific parts of their assignments, such as brainstorming or initial research, but the core content and conclusions should be original. Proper citation is required for any AI-generated content.	"You can employ AI tools to assist brainstorming or initial research, however the main content, arguments, and conclusions should be your own."
Permissive Go!	Students can use teacher-approved AI tools from the district list to assist in their assignments, such as generating ideas, proofreading, or organizing content.	"You may use AI tools as you see fit to enhance your assignment and demonstrate your understanding of the topic, however proper citation is required for any AI-generated content."

Adapted From: Code.org, CoSN, Digital Promise, European EdTech Alliance, Larimore, J., and PACE (2023). AI Guidance for Schools Toolkit. Retrieved from teachai.org/toolkit. [2004].

Consequences for not following expectations and policies:

1. Verbal Warning

2. Think Sheet
3. Parent Contact
4. Administration Referral

Plagiarism

All tasks should be completed by the student. Any practice and/or assessment that has been plagiarized (copied) from any source i.e. apps that give answers, other students, or the internet may receive consequences as noted in the district policies and the student may have to complete an alternative task to demonstrate his/her knowledge. This includes getting answers from others off of social media applications. Turning in work that is NOT your own IS plagiarism.

Cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment/assessment will result in an "F".

Labs:

Failure to follow lab rules will result in immediate removal from the classroom/lab. If I am removed from lab activities two times, I will lose the privilege of participating in labs and I will be sent to another classroom with an alternative assignment.

Student and Parent Acknowledgement

Access to the syllabus is on my Canvas page and Desert Sky teacher websites.

Please sign, and return this page to Mrs. Tawney by Thursday, August 6th, 2026.

Student

I, _____ (print student name), have read through the syllabus and agree to follow the policies and procedures set forth by Mrs. Tawney.

Student Signature:

Date _____

Parent/Guardian

I am the parent/guardian of the aforementioned student and have read and understood the syllabus. I understand that I may contact Mrs. Tawney via email or telephone with questions, comments or concerns about my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Preferred mode of contact: _____

Is there anything you'd like me to know about you/your student as we begin this school year?