# Seventh Grade Instructional Plan for Honors Science

**Contact Information**
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## Course Overview

Seventh Grade Honors Science is an integrated science course with a strong emphasis on life science that challenges students to think critically, solve complex problems, and make connections across scientific disciplines. Students will explore biology, earth science, chemistry, and physics through rigorous inquiry while developing scientific reasoning, analytical thinking, and collaborative problem-solving skills.

Instruction is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) with an emphasis on extending learning beyond grade-level expectations through inquiry, analysis of scientific data, and real-world applications. Students will engage in scientific practices, evaluate evidence, defend scientific claims, and apply their understanding to authentic phenomena and engineering challenges.

**Throughout the year, students will:**

- Conduct rigorous, TEKS-aligned laboratory investigations with an emphasis on experimental design and data analysis.
- Build interactive science notebooks to organize vocabulary, diagrams, models, reflections, and evidence-based explanations.
- Use digital and physical models to explain complex scientific concepts and evaluate scientific phenomena.
- Collaborate in scientific discussions, peer reviews, and problem-solving activities using academic vocabulary.
- Participate in STEM engineering challenges that require innovation, creativity, and application of scientific principles.
- Analyze authentic scientific data, graphs, and case studies to construct evidence-based conclusions.
- Complete extension activities and independent investigations that encourage curiosity and deeper exploration of scientific concepts.
- Engage in spiraling review to reinforce previously learned concepts while making connections among science disciplines.

## Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a safe learning place, which encourages teamwork, positive feedback, and academic achievement. All students will be respectful to others. We will be good listeners to the teacher and to other's ideas. All students will be hard working contributors in the process of getting their education in order to be successful and reach their full potential.

**Expectation 1: Be prepared with supplies**

- Prioritize attendance
- Be ready to learn everyday

**Expectation 2: Participate actively and take ownership of your learning**

- Complete all assigned tasks with accuracy and academic integrity.
- Engage thoughtfully in scientific discussions, writing tasks, laboratory investigations, and

collaborative learning.
- Ask questions, justify ideas using scientific evidence, and respectfully challenge the thinking of others.
- Complete assignments on time while producing high-quality work that reflects your best effort.

**Expectation 3: Be safe**
- Handle lab equipment and materials with care
- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult

Positive reinforcement and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations. If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.

## Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is vital to your child's academic development. Seventh grade is an important year in science - this year lays the foundation for future science courses. When students attend daily, they stay current with new skills, deepen their knowledge of the world, develop thinking skills, and practice important habits that support lifelong learning.

**Please notify the school if your child will be absent.** Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

## Learning Objectives

**By the end of the year, students will have developed science knowledge such as:**
- Safety and how to conduct and investigation
- Comparing and contrasting elements and compounds
- Distinguishing between physical and chemical changes
- Comparing speed and velocity to understand motion
- Analyzing the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces
- Patterns and effects of thermal energy
- The effects of plate tectonics on the Earth
- The influence of human activity on different water systems
- Structures and systems in organisms
- Inherited traits and classification of organisms
- How ecosystems are dependent upon the flow of matter and energy
- Components of our solar system

## Course Resources

- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Journals and writing utensils (part of the school supply list)
- SAVVAS

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## Grading Policy

*According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:*

Students must receive feedback on every graded assignment within three to seven days. Major assignments will receive feedback within ten days. Teachers will, at a minimum, communicate with students and their guardians every ten school days regarding upcoming assessments, classroom reminders, learning topics covered in class, and/or expectations. Regular communication may be electronic through the adopted Student Information System or other messaging applications. Teachers will maintain a parent communication log during each grading cycle.

**Major assignments - 60% Minor assignments - 40%**
**Semester exams count as 15% toward the final semester grade**

## Classroom Supplies

1 Large spiral notebook (Mead 5 Star preferred with over 100 pages)
1 Plastic folder with brads
Pencils, colored pencils, scissors, glue
Donations of disinfectant wipes and tissue would be greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

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**Please fill out the portion below and return that portion to your teacher.**

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in 7th Grade Honors Science. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature : _____

Student Signature: _____

Date:_____