

7th Grade Science - Syllabus Outline

Brooke Dickinson – Lake Dallas Middle School

Semester 1, Fall 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to 7th-grade science at Lake Dallas Middle School! This syllabus outlines the course plan for your child's class this semester, including key topics, expectations, and how you can support their success. As required by Texas law (Senate Bill 12), this document serves as the instructional plan and is available for your review.

I look forward to working with you and your child!

Contact Information

- **Teacher:** Brooke Dickinson
- **Email:** sdickinson@ldisd.net
- **Phone:** 940-497-4037
- **Conference Time:** 1:44 pm - 2:29 pm Monday – Friday
- **Best way to reach me:** Email, ParentSquare, or call the school office. I'll respond within 24 hours on school days.

Course Overview (Instructional Plan)

This semester, your child will study the following topics in Science, based on Texas state standards, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

1. Unit 1: Investigating Elements and Compounds

- Learning objectives: The student is expected to compare and contrast elements and compounds in terms of atoms and compounds, chemical symbols, and chemical formulas. Use the periodic table to identify the atoms and the number of each kind within a chemical formula.
- TEKS: 7.6(A)(B)

2. Unit 2: Investigating Changes in Matter and Solutions

- Learning objectives: Students will learn how to distinguish between physical and chemical changes in matter, describe aqueous solutions in terms of solute and solvent, concentration and dilution.
- TEKS: 7.6(C)

3. **Unit 3: Investigating Motion**

- Learning objectives: The student is expected to calculate average speed using distance and time measurements from investigations. Distinguish between speed and velocity in linear motion in terms of distance, displacement, and direction. The student will also measure, record, and interpret an object's motion using distance-time graphs
- TEKS: 7.7(A)(B)(C)

4. **Unit 4: Investigating Balanced and Unbalanced Forces**

- Learning Objective: The student is expected to analyze the effect of balanced and unbalanced forces on the state of motion of an object using Newton's First Law of Motion.
- TEKS: 7.7(D)

5. **Unit 5: Investigating Thermal Energy**

- Learning objectives: The student is expected to investigate methods of thermal energy transfer into and out of systems, including conduction, convection, and radiation. Explain the relationship between temperature and the kinetic energy of the particles within a substance.
- TEKS: 7.8(A)(C)

6. **Additional Skills/Activities**

- Developing critical thinking, note-taking, and writing skills
- Activities: Labs, group projects, and Multimedia presentations
- Activities: One-pagers, class debates, and gallery walks
- Scientist Study: Pick a famous scientist and write a brief description about them and how they changed the world.

Thank you for supporting your child's education! Feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,
Brooke Dickinson