**Michael Benamon**

**Course Syllabus 2025-2026**

**Course Description and Objectives**

In the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP), learning goes beyond the classroom. Students explore how subjects apply to real-life situations, encouraging critical thinking, problem-solving, and global awareness.

Seventh grade students keep records of their observations, use those records to analyze the data they collect, recognize patterns in the data, use simple charts and graphs to represent the relationships they see, and find more than one way to interpret their findings. They make and use observations to explain the diversity of living organisms and how the organisms are classified, how they reproduce and how genetic information is passed from parents to their offspring. They use different models to represent systems such as cells, tissues, and organs. They use what they know about ecosystems to explain how matter cycles and energy flows through the ecosystem. They use the concepts of natural selection and fossil evidence to construct explanations about the diversity of life that they see. Seventh graders plan and carry out investigations, describe observations, and show information in graphical form. The students replicate investigations and compare results to find similarities and differences.

**Textbook**

McGraw-Hill 7th Grade-Life Science

**Unit/Concept Names**

1. Introduction to Life Science and Scientific Inquiry
2. Cell Biology
3. Genetics and Heredity
4. Evolution and Natural Selection
5. Ecology and Ecosystems
6. Human Body Systems

**Richmond County Board of Education Grading Policy**

* Minor Grades 60% (example- lab reports, quizzes, classwork, and homework assignments)
	+ **Minimum number** of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = **5**
* Major Grades 40% (example - (includes unit tests, projects, and end-of-unit performance tasks).
	+ **Minimum number** of major grades per 6-week progress report period = **2**

**Academic Grading Scale**

 A (90-100) B (80-89) C (75-79) D (70-74) F (below 70)

* Parents are encouraged to monitor their child’s grades using the district Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
* Please contact the front office at 706-737-7288 for information to gain access to Infinite Campus.

**Academic Dishonesty** **in the MYP**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty.

At our school, we follow the IB Middle Years Program’s standards for academic honesty. This means:

* **Do your own work.** Give credit when using someone else’s ideas, words, or work.
* **Use your own voice.** Avoid copying, pasting, or letting others do your work for you.
* **Work with integrity.** Be honest during tests, group work, and individual tasks.
* **Plagiarism of AI content is academic misconduct.** AI content must be properly acknowledged.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other dishonest behaviors do not reflect who we are as IB learners. We take pride in being **principled** and **responsible** for our own learning.

The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as “incomplete” and the student required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment.

**Late Work**

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Multiple incidents of late work may result in teacher-student-parent conferences to examine and correct the student’s work habits through an academic contract. Students in grades 6-12 may have their scores reduced by 5% per day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion. Completing work in a timely manner during the learning unit is essential for academic success. If the score is reduced for late work, the teacher must make a notation in the Infinite Campus comment section of the gradebook to reflect the reduction for late work. Students and parents should refer to the teacher’s course syllabus for specific late work procedures.

**Make-up Work**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Teachers should provide reasonable timelines for completing make-up work. Generally, such work should be completed within 5 days of returning to school. A student should not be required to take a quiz or test on their first day back at school if the assessment was first announced during their absence.

**Homework**

Homework will be minimal for this course. Most homework will involve reading or completing some assignments that weren’t completed in class.

**Relearn & Reassess (R&R Procedures)**

Students have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for any **major assessment**. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, a student will be given a minimum of one opportunity to be reassessed. Students scoring below 70 on a major assessment are expected to complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

Teachers have discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for any **minor assessment**.

**Cell phones** are not permitted in class, per school policy, and should not be seen nor heard. Students should turn cell phones off and place them in their bookbags.

* First offense will receive an explicit verbal warning.
* Further offense will receive a parent phone call.
* Repeated offenses will result in phone confiscation. In this case, a parent will need to request the phone be returned in person.

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

* Come to class prepared with all necessary materials.
* Participate actively in class discussions and group work.
* Follow all safety procedures during lab activities.
* Respect the ideas and opinions of others.
* Submit assignments on time.
* We will cover this topic more in detail in the first week of class.

As part of our IB MYP journey, we will actively develop the 10 Learner Profile attributes that help us grow as individuals, thinkers, and global citizens. These attributes guide how we learn, how we treat others, and how we face challenges.

Throughout the year, we will reflect on and practice the following qualities: thinker, inquirer, communicator, balanced, knowledgeable, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-taker, and reflective.

[*IB MYP Learner Profiles for syllabi*](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmohleri%5COneDrive%20-%20Richmond%20County%20Board%20of%20Education%5CDocuments%5CIB_Learner_Profile_Syllabus_Table.pdf)

**Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further guidance on Richmond County School System’s policies and procedures.**

**Course Materials:**

* Science notebook
* Pens, pencils, and highlighters
* Hand sanitizer
* Colored pencils
* Glue sticks
* Composition notebook

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**Remind Message:** https://www.remind.com/join/8c68c9

**Tutt Middle School Phone Number:** 706-737-7288