**Life Science Syllabus**

**Belair K-8 **

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**Science Class Goals and Descriptions**

Welcome to Life Science! The Seventh Grade Georgia Standards of Excellence for science are designed to give all students the necessary skills for a smooth transition from elementary life science standards to high school biology standards. The purpose is to give all students an overview of common strands in life science including, but not limited to, diversity of living organisms, structure and function of cells, heredity, ecosystems, and biological evolution.

This class will require you to perform numerous hands-on activities (projects, presentations and experiments), as well as weekly quizzes and monthly tests. The goals of this class are to increase your ability to use critical thinking skills, to be able to relate Life Science to the real world; including your other courses, and to be able to use technology for Life Science knowledge acquisition and demonstration. This is a difficult course and requires full student participation. Successful completion of this course is a team effort including the student, parent/guardian, and the teacher. My goal is for students’ to want to participate by creating a more exciting and enjoyable learning experience!

The units we will cover are: Nature of Science and Lab Safety, Organization of Life (Cells), Organization of Life (Human Body Systems), Genetics, Organization of Life (Classification), Evolution, Interdependence of Life (Ecology), Interdependence of Life (Biomes), Physical Science Unit 1 Preview

**Student Assessment/ Grade Calculations**

Keeping up with your grades is important for the team. Parents should check Infinite Campus (my online gradebook of your child’s progress) weekly. Student will also check his/her grades weekly (it is important to take ownership of your progress by keeping yourself informed). The teacher will update grades on a weekly basis- this is usually Sunday night but could be as late as Wednesday.

Report cards are sent home every nine weeks and progress reports every 4 ½ weeks.

Grades are calculated:

**40%- Summative Assessments (tests, projects)-** To be successful in this section the student will need to study on a nightly basis.

**30%- Formative Assessments (quizzes, labs)-** To be successful in this section the student will need to study and participate. Participation in labs is proven to increase student understanding in science concepts, and in this class it is mandatory.

**20%- notebook, notes, classwork-** To be successful in this section the student will need to take thorough notes, keep notes and work organized by the provided *table of contents*, complete and submit classwork on time, and pay attention to class lessons and discussions.

**10%- homework/ reinforcement-** To be successful in this section the student will complete homework on time and communicate any difficulties in the homework/ reinforcement to the teacher.

The breakdown of the Life Science grade can be compared to stepping stones. In order to be successful on the summative and formative assessments, students need to understand the concepts. This understanding is gained through taking notes, maintaining an organized Life Science notebook, completing classwork and reinforcement- as assigned in a timely manner.

\*Please remember that not all work that is turned in will earn a numeric score. Some assignments will be checked for understanding to help determine whether remediation or enrichment is needed. Corrected papers will be returned and required to be included in the student’s notebook.

**Textbook and Materials**

**Textbook:** Online textbook website: <https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do>

Students may choose to check out a Life Science textbook for the year, but are not required by the teacher to do so. Students will access the textbook in class online with a student username and passcode that will be issued around the third week of school. Students not choosing to checkout a textbook must be able to access the online textbook for required assignments.

**Supplies:**

~3 ring binder one 3 inch or two 1 ½ inch (one per semester)- if the 3 inch binder is too cumbersome to keep up with, the student may choose two smaller binders to be broken up by semester

\***Students will be taking notes in class often and will need to keep up with them by using a 3 ring binder with dividers titled for each unit:**

~10-15 dividers for the different sections of the binder ~paper

~pencils/ pens- 1 red ~ pencil sharpener ~highlighters ~headphones

**Other supplies- (**not needed but may come in handy)

~page reinforces

**Absences/Makeup Work:**

Excused absences are sometimes necessary, but excessive absences negatively affect the grade earned. You work harder when you have to play catch-up. If you must miss class, check my website and Microsoft TEAMS for makeup work.

Students who miss assignments and/or assessments due to an absence will be allowed to make up the missing work. If the work is not made up and submitted within 5 days, the score earned will be subject to late credit. This is because the longer you wait to make up an assignment the harder the work gets; Life Science concepts build on each other, so it is important to keep up with the class.

IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST AND SUBMIT ALL MAKE UP WORK (including tests and quizzes) WITHIN 5 DAYS OF RETURNING TO SCHOOL. The student is also responsible for acquiring missed content/information. DURING CLASS. You are responsible for the missed content while you are making up the assessment.

**Cheating:**

**In any instance of cheating or dishonesty, you will earn a zero on the assignment and your parents will be contacted.**  **Caution:** Many students cheat through plagiarism. According to Merriam-Webster, plagiarism is “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source”. **Copying and pasting information from the internet as your answers is plagiarism.**

**Conferences/Teacher Contact Information:**

Email is the best way for both parents and students to reach me with any questions or concerns. My email address is [walshje@richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:walshje@richmond.k12.ga.us). Conferences can be set up per request.

**Extra Help/Tutoring**

I will offer extra help/tutoring on set days and times to be determined. There will be one morning session offered and one afternoon session offered. Set days and times will be on my website when tutoring begins.

**Homework Policy:**

Assigned homework has a purpose. It is to reinforce skills and concepts discussed in class. Therefore, it is an important part of this course. All homework will be on USAtest prep. It will be assigned on Monday and due every Friday by 4:30pm.

**Quizzes and Tests:**

Pop-quizzes and quizzes will be given weekly. Tests will be given monthly. Pop-quizzes are usually on information that was covered that week in class and are a DOK (Depth of Knowledge) level-1or 2 (easiest). Quizzes cover information taught in class the week before. This gives students an opportunity to study more and get more practice with the concepts in class. Quizzes are a DOK level 2 or 3 (more in-depth/less recall). Tests are given once a month, and students will have had enough time to study nightly at home and practice daily in class to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts. Tests are an application of the concepts and require a deeper understanding. Tests are a DOK level 3 or 4 (short explanation is included). Students are expected to study their notes and handouts **every night** to be prepared for all assessments. Use the helpful resources on my webpage like video tutorials, Kahoot games, and powerpoints. All assessments are diagnostics for the student, parent, and myself. Not doing well on a pop-quiz or quiz is a good indicator of how the student will perform on a test and is always correlated with how well the student engages in the classroom.

**Late Work**

Late work will be deducted 10-30 percent depending on the tardiness of the assignment as listed below. This deduction is to motivate students to keep up with the pace of the class. Falling behind will ensure failing assessments due to lack of knowledge.

>1 week- 10%

1-2 weeks- 20%

<2 weeks- 30%

**Class Website:**

My class website will be updated weekly on Sundays. All information necessary to be successful in my class will be available on my website including: test and project dates, homework assignments, powerpoints, tutorial videos, printable materials, and all announcements. Please visit the website daily- weekly.

**Class Expectations**

*Students will respect their teacher, classmates, and classroom.*

*Students will come fully prepared for class each day.*

*Students will follow classroom rules and procedures.*

*Students will complete all assigned work to the best of their ability.*

*Students will respect and follow the learning process I have designed for them.*

**Remind**

I’m requesting that both parents/guardians and students join Remind. The class code is @jlickl

Bottom of Form

**Your first homework assignment**:

Have your parent/guardian send me an email (walshje@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us). The message must:

\* Be received no later than Monday, August 12th, 2019 by the beginning of your class period

\* Be sent from your parent/guardian’s email address and include the student name in the subject line

\* Indicate that your parent/guardian has received these Class Policies and Expectations

\* Include a contact email address and/or telephone number(s) for your parent/guardian

\* If your parent does not have email account, they may send a note including the required information.

~Notes must include a parent signature.