

7th Grade Life Science
2011-2012

Instructors' Names: Cindy Spain and Brian Thompson

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Course Description

The 7th grade Life Science course is designed to be a introduction to biology. Students will explore the characteristics and functions of living things, from a single cell to complex human body systems. Incorporated into the study of living things, students will also be learning how to apply the steps of the scientific method. Students will come to appreciate not only the need and importance of scientific inquiry, but also why current bodies of scientific information and theories must be challenged constantly as we learn more about our environment as a result of the sophistication of technology increases.

Benchmarks

Demonstrates an ability to understand, apply, and evaluate relevant science concepts and ideas.

Consistently utilizes active reading skills to acquire knowledge of scientific concepts.

Understands and uses the steps of the scientific method when designing, conducting and analyzing investigations.

Draws meaningful conclusions from visual representation of scientific data.

Preparation for Class/ Course Materials

With the exception of an introductory unit on the Scientific Method, learning materials will consist of two textbooks and accompanying workbooks, *Science Explorer: Cells and Heredity and Human Biology and Health* (Prentice Hall, 2009). In addition to these texts, other human anatomy and physiology textbooks, scientific periodicals, internet sites, and videos will be used in the classroom as supplemental sources.

Methods of Instruction

The method of presentation varies for each topic, though a strong emphasis is placed on hands-on activities for all units. Class discussions, labs, outdoor activities, audio-visual presentations, and group projects will be integral parts of the curriculum. The year will culminate in independent scientific investigations chosen and conducted by individuals or small groups.

Assessments

Grades will be determined by calculating the percentage of total points earned out of the total points possible for each quarter. Total are accumulated through: limited amounts of daily work, lab technique, project work, and knowledge and skill checks.

Projected Course Schedule

7th Grade Life Science meets for 46 minutes on Monday, Thursday and Friday and for 76 minutes on either Tuesday or Wednesday.

