

ECKSTEIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Building A Community Of Lifelong Learners
7th Grade Science Course Syllabus 2010-2011

TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Life Science is another word for **Biology**, the study of life. We are going to stick close to the curriculum presented in these Kits: ***Diversity of Life, Ecology, The Human Body, Our Genes, Our Selves, and Youth Take Heart***. These are dynamic and exciting—they are all about **inquiry science**. “What is inquiry science?” you ask. It means we will be doing lots and lots of hands-on investigations and experiments. Roll your sleeves up and get ready to dissect, collect, draw, observe, design, test, document, hypothesize, and more.

GRADING

*Grades reflect what students know and are able to do. More information provided on my website.
All assignments, papers and exams will be graded using the following criteria.*

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ✓ Journal/Participation: 10% | ✓ Exceeding Standard (ES) – <i>I got it & I can teach it!</i> |
| ✓ Tests/ Quizzes: 30% | ✓ Meeting Standard (MS) – <i>I got it!</i> |
| ✓ Assignments/Homework 10% | ✓ Approaching Standard (AS) – <i>I get it but need more clarity!</i> |
| ✓ Labs & Projects 50% | ✓ Below/Not-Meeting Standard (NS) – <i>I don't get it or didn't try!</i> |

Students must achieve a 60% in overall course grades to earn credit for the class.

MAKE-UP WORK & MISSED EXAMS

In accordance with Eckstein Middle School policy, students will be given one day for every day they were absent to turn in make-up work. (i.e. Two days absent equates to two days for make-up work).

If you are absent only on the day of an exam or lab, you are expected to take the exam the day you return. If you are absent two or more days, including the day of the exam, it is your responsibility to schedule the exam within three days of your return to class. Failure to do so will result in an “incomplete” in the grade book.

LATE WORK & MISSING WORK

- Extensions on any assignment will be granted only if asked in person or email one (1) day prior to the day to be turned in!
- Late work is accepted for credit (75%)! Any day after the day that the work is to be turned in!
- Work without a name or partially completed work is considered incomplete (60%) even if turned in on time.
- Work missed because of unexcused absences or work never turned in will count as missing (50%).

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a referral to Administration. A conference with the student, teacher and a family member will determine the cause and provide an appropriate consequence. 1st Offense – Scored “0” for that assignment, Student, Parent, and Admin notified with opportunity to increase to credit “CR” (scored at the discretion of the teacher) after instruction and/or review of citation methods.

2nd Offense – Scored “0” for that assignment; Student, Parent, and Admin notified without opportunity to increase to credit “CR”. Placed on academic probation.

3rd Offense – Scored “0” for the term, Student, Parent, and Admin notified without opportunity to change grade. Placed on continued academic probation.

MATERIALS FOR AND IN CLASS

Please bring the following to class everyday:

One lined composition book — 100 pages (to be left in class) • 2-3 Pencils with erasers • Eckstein Planner

COURSE OF STUDY

We will first tackle the *Diversity of Life, Ecology* and *Our Genes, Our Selves* kits. Get ready for DNA, cells and microscopic life. Did you know that if you added up the mass of every living thing on Earth that bacteria would be more than 50% of the total? Amazing since they are almost impossible to see even in a microscope! We will finish with a special project of your choosing, with presentations. More about this as the time approaches.

We will end the year with the mysterious, the miraculous, the incredible *Human Body & Youth Take Heart* (which hopefully will not be as mysterious when we finish, but still miraculous and incredible). Do you know the importance of a system?

Assessment will be in the form of:

- Your teacher's observations while you work in class.
- Peer Assessment
- Your science notebook (writing, reading, drawing, calculation)
- Participation and discussion
- Homework & Typed Formal Lab (once per quarter)
- Quizzes (closed book) & Tests (open book)
- Regular Challenges

EXPECTATIONS

I understand that people process information in a variety of ways. To facilitate diverse learning styles, there will be a wide assortment of structured learning activities in class and as homework. You will participate in group work, conduct labs and field studies, read, take notes, create visuals, take part in discussions, produce materials, play games, watch slide shows and video clips, analyze case studies, engage in creative writing and much, much more! Expect homework several times each week.

1. **Respect** — for yourself, classmates, teacher, classroom property, & classroom environment
2. **Reliability** — for following classroom rules, guidelines, and agreements at all times
3. **Responsibility** — for being a responsible scholar at all times, coming to class prepared (with pencil, paper, and right attitude), & following classroom rules, guidelines and agreements at all times.

Read the fine print on everything If you write "I love Science" on the top of the page I will give you 1 point extra on that quiz, test, or project. This is good for tests, quizzes, and projects only. I will not mention this in class and I expect those who can read this to get lots of free-bees. This is also a good life skill.

GETTING EXTRA HELP

I am available before, after school and during lunch. Come see me if you are having trouble with material we are covering or want to talk about anything going on in class. *If you plan on coming in, please let me know so I can be available in my room.* Also email is a great way to ask questions! You can also get help from classmates or on our classroom website!:

Go to: www.mrbrewer.org/.

I can be reached/contacted several ways:

Real Mail 3003 NE 75th St. Seattle, WA 98115

Web Page www.mrbrewer.org/

Email (best way) mabrewer@seattleschools.org

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