

Honors 7th Grade Life Science Syllabus

Teachers:

Ms. Bonnie Abernathy (Team Gold)
babernathy@cartersvilleschools.org

Mrs. Sarah Belisle (Team Purple)
sbelisle@cartersvilleschools.org

Mrs. Marilyn Kinney (Team White)
mkinney@cartersvilleschools.org

To Contact Me: Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns. I will get back with you as soon as possible.

Success in science is a partnership between students, teachers, and parents.

Course Description: We will be studying Life Science this year using the Georgia Performance Standards. In science, the standards have two aspects: the Characteristics of Science, which deal with the processes of investigation, and the Content Standards that provide the factual information about the topic. It is important to learn both aspects to be successful in science. We begin each year focusing on the Characteristics of Science since these are involved in every unit of our study throughout the year. A detailed listing of the standards for each area may be found at www.georgiastandards.org or by scanning the QR code below.

S7L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to investigate the diversity of living organisms and how they can be compared scientifically.

S7L2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to describe how cell structures, cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems interact to maintain the basic needs of organisms.

S7L3. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to explain how organisms reproduce either sexually or asexually and transfer genetic information to determine the traits of their offspring.

S7L4. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to examine the interdependence of organisms with one another and their environments.

S7L5. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information from multiple sources to explain the theory of evolution of living organisms through inherited characteristics.



Evaluation: In the science department, we believe in many forms of assessment. Our grading is divided into two main categories: summative and formative grades.

—**Formative grades** (quizzes, homework, etc.) carry a weight of 40% of the final grade. We will use pre-testing, a variety of classroom activities, labs, homework, independent and group work, and quizzes to check for understanding as each unit progress (daily/summative grades).

—**Summative grades** (projects and tests) carry a weight of 60% of the final grade. At the end of the unit or section of information, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of the standards. These, for example: tests and performance tasks are considered unit/test grades.

You are encouraged to track your child's progress on the computer using Infinite Campus. You may contact the CMS front office if you do not have your login information.

Late Assignments: Assignments are to be turned in ON TIME!! If an assignment is late, past the deadline with a penalty of 20% taken from the grade earned for the 1st semester. During 2nd semester, 30% will be taken from the final grade earned. **Example:** *During 1st semester, if the assignment is worth 100 points and turned in late, the 20% deduction makes the highest possible grade an 80, if there are no mistakes. On the day the assignment is due, a zero will go in the gradebook, coded missing and late, and this zero will be replaced once the assignment is turned in.* Please ask your child about any zeroes that you see in Infinite Campus. Late assignments will not be accepted after the last day of each 9 weeks.



The Cartersville City Schools app is the best way to stay informed.



Homework: Students are then highly encouraged to review the material for **at least** 15 minutes each night. Homework assignments, test dates, and other important information will be posted in Schoology and your child's agenda. Please check the agenda nightly, and sign it as this routine shows the student that you as parents/guardians and the teachers, are working collaboratively and communicating to help them be successful.

Resources

Our school website, www.cartersvilleschools.org links to a wealth of resources and information. The majority of our resources can be found in the Clever platform. Resources that are used in are: Flocabulary, BrainPop, Quizizz, Legends of Learning, and [Amoeba Sisters](#).

Schoology: This program will be used to post information for each of our units including: PowerPoints, ClipFest links, notes, study guides, etc.

Blackboard Messaging: Messaging system that allows teachers to communicate course information through the means of email or text message. Please make sure your phone number and e-mail are in Infinite Campus correctly so that you receive these messages. This is **very** important. Please do not opt out of messages or you will miss all notifications from the teacher, school, and the school system.

Infinite Campus: Please check Infinite Campus frequently. Grades will be posted frequently. You may contact the CMS front office if you do not have your login information.

Textbook: Life Science Custom Edition. Elevate Science. Savaas 2019. This is their book to keep, write in, highlight, etc. throughout this year. Students will use duct tape to cover their textbook. The textbook can be found online, and your student will be able to access it through the Clever login. If the textbook becomes lost or damage the cost is \$30.00 to replace it.

How Does Honors Differ? Honors students have already demonstrated some mastery in some subject areas of science. They are ready to move forward with differing tasks and activities that lead to real learning for these students. Our Honors classes strive to provide a rigorous level of instruction through differentiation of content, process, product, environment, and assessment. What this means for your honor student is the standards are taught through the use of more advanced, complex texts and resource materials, compacting, interdisciplinary learning, accelerated pacing, and more choices centered on interest and learning styles. It is our goal to meet the needs and readiness of this advanced group while providing the standards-based instruction necessary to continue their advancement in science.

Make-Up Assignments: If a student has an excused absence, he/she may make up any missed assignments. Upon returning to school, students have the number of days absent plus 1 day to turn in the assignment. It is the student's responsibility to get any missed assignments. Tests and quizzes are assigned in advance of the testing date. If a student misses only the testing date, he/she should be prepared to take the missed quiz or test on the day he/she returns to school. Most tests will be made up after/before school.

Videos: I make a video everyday going over what we did in class. If there is a new concept that I taught in class, there will be a separate video for that as well.

Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum:

Reading and writing skills are important to be successful in science. In addition, there will be various writing assignments throughout the school year accompanied with text book reading.

Novel: This year our class will be reading *Hoot* by Carl Hiaassen. This novel has been approved by the district and supports our curriculum. We will also watch the movie *Hoot*. (2006 American Family Comedy Film, written and directed by Wil Shriner produced by New Line Cinema and Walden Media, rated PG). *If you wish for your student to have an alternate assignment for the novel or the movie, please contact me via e-mail.*

Parents/Guardians: With your support, I know this will be a terrific year. I look forward to getting to know your student. I encourage you to use Cartersville City Schools app, which connects to Infinite Campus, which is where you see grades, and Schoology, which is where you see assignments.

Please sign the attached form stating you and your student have read the syllabus.