Course Syllabus and Disclosure Statement

7th Grade Integrated Science

2007 - 2008

Room 202

Teacher: Jeni White
Contact: 531-1173
jeni@slarts.org

Office Hours: 8:00 – 8:30 a.m., 3:30-3:45 p.m.
Other times by appointment

Text:

- We have classroom sets of many high-quality science series books. We will do classroom readings and assignments from these texts. They will not be available to take home. Thus, you are responsible for using class time wisely!
- There will be no take-home textbook. However, this doesn't mean there will be no homework!
- You will also have a classic novel reading assignment. I will provide these books for you to check out and take home.

Course Description:

The theme for this course is **structure**. We will be studying the "structure" of matter: from the structure of tiny atoms to the earth's layering to the complex structure and classification of living things. We will come to understand that all substances are made of smaller parts, and that they are also parts of larger wholes.

Course Goals:

Students will be able to:

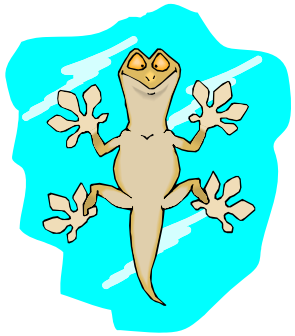
- Demonstrate through coursework the principles of scientific methodology
- Create, use, and interpret data graphically
- Communicate clearly and appropriately the results of investigations, both orally and in writing
- Relate the structure of matter from its basic building blocks to its more complex forms, including substances which make up the physical Earth and the life forms on Earth
- Express an appreciation for the significance of science to our daily lives
- Work cooperatively to identify and solve problems systematically

Class Expectations:

<u>The Obvious:</u>

- Show respect and care to all classmates, the teacher, and school property.
- Be on time and attend class on a regular basis.
- Participate enthusiastically in all classroom activities.
- Be prepared for class with paper, pencil/pen, black science binder, and a brain switched to 'on'.
- Sleeping during class can be detrimental to your health and well-being. Igor the Turkey Vulture might mistake you for carrion. Besides, class will be too adventurous to sleep through.
- Personal electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, CD players, games, etc.) are strictly prohibited. If I see them, I will confiscate.
- Communication: if you are having any problems of any nature, communicate them! I hope you will find that I can be sensitive, open-minded, and discreet. I want you to succeed, and am willing to work with you to make sure that happens.
- I will give my best effort to the class, and will challenge you. I know that you will meet the challenge if you, too, give your best effort to the class.

The Animals:

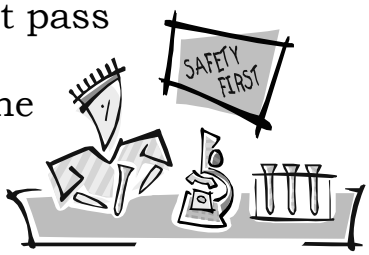


Classroom animals are for your enjoyment, and also to help teach care and responsibility for the living world. We may occasionally do scientific investigations with the animals…as long as the investigations are humane. For the animals' sake, please abide by the following:

- Get permission from me before handling any animal.
- Wash and/or sanitize hands before AND after handling any animal.
- Be gentle and careful. Animals can be injured easily, and escapees roaming the hallways might not be welcomed in some classrooms.
- Do not feed the animals without my consent.
- If you have any allergies or health concerns regarding the animals, please let me know.

Lab Safety:

You will receive a lab safety contract, separate from this document. Labs are an integral part of this course. You will be assessed on your understanding of lab safety rules, and must pass the assessment with 100% before you can participate in labs. Of course, you may retake the assessment until a perfect score is achieved.



Consumables:

- Drinks: non-flavored water is the only beverage permitted in the classroom. Spills are inevitable, and a sticky mess is not allowed.
- Food: NEVER in a science room, unless it is provided by me. You never know what chemicals or creepy crawlies have been on the tables before your arrival.
- Gum: Nope. There's already gum on the bottoms of our new tables. I personally know how difficult it is to remove gum from jeans, and don't want anyone else to go through the ordeal.

Field Trips:

I enjoy field trips, and I'm guessing you do, too. There are so many fun learning adventures we can have off-campus! I need your help, though. I can relax and enjoy these trips only when I know my students are behaving in a safe and appropriate manner. I'm much more likely to schedule a field trip if I can trust you to be responsible! Sooo, it's up to you…

"Whoever heard of a philosophy field trip?"

- You MUST have 'earned the privilege to attend' by all your teachers.
- Poor classroom behavior or more than two missing assignments will 'unearn' your privilege to attend.
- You are representing our school. Teachers and chaperones are not the only ones watching your behavior.
- Stay with the group at all times.
- All basic classroom rules apply, as well as additional rules imposed by the facility we are visiting.
- If your behavior is inappropriate, you will not be invited to attend the next field trip.

Make-up work, extra credit, late assignments:

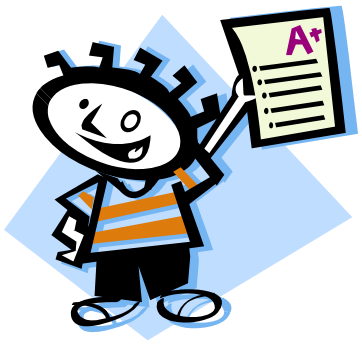
Make-up work: If you have an excused absence, check the bulletin board and calendar for assignments. For each day absent, you have two days to make up the missed assignments.

Extra credit: Do not come to me to ask for extra credit work. I may occasionally offer extra credit projects (with deadlines). It is up to you to take advantage of these opportunities when they exist.

Late assignments: Grades for late assignments will be deducted by 10% to 30%, and more if it becomes a chronic problem. After two weeks, a 0 will be recorded and you will not be able to make up the assignment.

Student Evaluation:

40% Exams and Major Projects
40% Labs, classroom activities
And homework
20% Citizenship



Grade	Performance Standard
5	Academically superior performance. Goes above and beyond the norm. Is attentive, listens carefully, does high quality work in a timely manner, and follows directions. Participates cooperatively in all classroom activities. Has excellent work habits, and demonstrates mastery of subject. Likely demonstrates ability to apply course material in diverse contexts, to analyze information from multiple perspectives, and to engage others in the learning process.
4	Does quality work in a timely manner, and follows directions well. Participates in most classroom discussions, and cooperates well on classroom projects. Shows good work habits, and demonstrates competent knowledge of subject material. Shows ability to interpret and apply course material and knowledge.
3	Listens most of the time and participates in classroom discussions sometimes. Participates cooperatively in classroom projects most of the time. Work habits could be improved, and some assignments may be incomplete or late. Demonstrates fair knowledge of subject material and ability to explain content learned, but also shows room for improvement.
2	Pays attention and participates in classroom discussions on a limited basis. Participates poorly in classroom projects. Many assignments may be incomplete, late, or missing. Knowledge of subject material is below expectations, and student is making a limited effort to succeed.
1	Student has demonstrated little, if any, effort in this course. Knowledge of subject material is at and unacceptable level. Student participates poorly in classroom activities, and is often uncooperative with the teacher and/or classmates.

Course Timeline (tentative, subject to change)

Week Of:	Topic of Study/Comments
Aug 28	Lab Safety, Scientific Methodology
Sep 4- 24	Inheritance, adaptations
Oct 1- 22	Structure of Matter: Atoms, Molecules, states of matter
Oct. 26	End of 1st Term
Oct. 29 - Nov. 3	Fall Break
Nov. 5-19	Density and Sorting of Earth Materials
Nov 26- Dec. 17	Earth's Structure
Dec. 24 – Jan 4	Winter Break
Jan 7- 28	Cell Structure and Function
Jan 18	End of 2nd Term
Feb 4- 25	Tissues, Organs, Organ Systems
Mar 3- 17	Classification of Living Organisms
Mar 21	End of 3rd Term
Mar 24 – 28	Spring Break
Mar 31- Apr 14	Putting our knowledge to work: learning to use dichotomous keys and field guides
Apr 21- 28	Getting caught up, reviewing the year's lessons, practice for CRTs, preparing for Gala
May	Gala, CRTs, fun learning extension activities
June 5	End of 4th Term

Please sign and return this page of the 7th Grade Syllabus and Disclosure Statement.

I have read and understood the 7th Grade Integrated Science Syllabus and Disclosure Statement. If any sections are unclear to me, or if I have concerns about any part of this document, I will discuss them with Ms. Jeni White.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____