

Life Science Syllabus
7th GRADE SCIENCE
2007-2008
Mrs. Lamb

Dear Parents and Students.

I am blessed to be a part of the Greater Atlanta Christian family, and I am looking forward to sharing that blessing with you in Science. It is my goal to introduce scientific concepts so that students will better understand the universe they live in, appreciate and care for each part of it, and praise the Creator who made this miracle possible. In the book of Romans (1:20) Paul said, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." By studying what God has made, may we clearly see and praise the power and divinity of our God and Creator. It is my hope and prayer that as we study Science we will learn about the Creator more fully and become more transformed into His divine image!

Course Description

We are using the textbook series by Prentice Hall, *Science Explorer*. Besides being a clear, concise storehouse of scientific information and experimentation, it has a unique feature that we will all appreciate. Instead of one large, heavy textbook to carry around, each unit is bound in an individual book. This not only does makes the student's book bag lighter, it also allows the science department to determine curriculum, not a textbook company. Because of this we have decided to emphasize life science in the seventh grade, yet also integrate units from earth and physical science. For the first semester, we will begin by studying *Earth's Water*, then move to *Earth's Changing Surface*, and end with *Cells and Heredity*. **There will be a first semester EXAM in Science** over that material. During the second semester, we will be studying *From Bacteria to Plants* and conclude with *Animals*. We will end the year with a culminating activity.

Materials and Supplies

- 1. Notebook:** Since organization is such an important part of any scientific observation and experiment, we will use the notebook as a tool for practicing this skill. By the end of the first week of school, each student must have a green 3-ring notebook, complete with paper and dividers. See the Assignment section of my web site for details.
- 2. Please bring to class *each day*:** science textbook, notebook with paper, pens (blue or black), pencils, and an assignment book.
- 3. Please have in your locker** to use when necessary: colored pencils, markers, metric ruler, glue stick.
- 4. Lab supplies:** From time to time students will be asked to bring in materials needed for a lab, such as egg cartons or empty soda bottles. To insure cleanliness and sanitation of the work area, any donations of antibacterial spray cleanser or wipes, hand soap, and/or paper towels are always appreciated and will be awarded with a no-penalty, late-homework pass!

Grading

1. Grades will be determined by a point system. Some of the ways students may earn points are through tests, lab assignments, quizzes, homework, class work, group work, projects, journals, notebook checks, and the final semester exam (not to exceed 15% of the total). The grades will be updated every two weeks in Net Classroom. Please contact me via email if you would like current update at any time. Students are graded not only on work performed, but also on their attitude, participation, cooperation, and effort.

Remember the grades are cumulative throughout the semester!

2. Extra credit: Although I expect students to keep up with their assignments at all times, I do understand that from time to time extra credit may be beneficial. At the end of each chapter there is a Chapter Review. If a student thinks they did not do as well on that chapter as they would have liked, they may complete this Review, neatly in their own handwriting, and turn it in for credit one week before the grading period they wish to improve. The amount of credit depends on the accuracy and care with which they completed the assignment.

3. Make-up work: It is the responsibility of the student to find out what was missed during an absence and to turn in the work, if the absence was excused (see Parent/Student Handbook), in a timely manner. *Please see me the day you return* to discuss the need for extra time, schedule a make up test or lab, or if you do not understand the missed assignments. Make up tests are given on Thursday during study hall, or on Monday and Wednesday after school in the Lecture Hall. Students have one week to make up a missed test.

4. Late work: In order to receive full credit, work must be neat and complete, ready to hand in at the time it is collected or checked. Any time after that point, the work is considered late. Up to one day late, the assignment may be penalized 20%. Beyond one day late and up until the day of the test, the work is penalized 50%. After the test is taken for which that assignment was given, a "0" will be recorded if it has not been turned in.

Discipline policy

Rules: Although few, the rules are based on mutual respect and maturing responsibility. However, my expectations are high that each student will feel accepted and appreciated, and will try to be and do their best for the greater glory of their Creator.

1. Sit quietly in your seat, ready for class, when the bell rings.
2. Follow directions promptly the first time they are given. Stay on task.
3. Respect the people, equipment, and furnishings of the classroom.
4. Only say appropriate things at appropriate times.
5. Obey all handbook rules, the honor code and the dress code of GACS.

Consequences: During the semester, each time a student chooses to break a rule, a conduct cut will be given.

- ✓ One conduct cut = warning! This could be verbal or a look or gesture.
- ✓ Two conduct cuts = remain after class to discuss the problem.
- ✓ Three conduct cuts = student takes home "My Action Plan" to be filled out and discussed with parents, have signed, and returned the next day.

- ✓ Four conduct cuts = 40 minute teacher's detention after school.
- ✓ Five conduct cuts: Administrative referral

If a student fails to carry through with a consequence, another conduct cut will be earned. If an infraction of the rules is severe, or if misbehavior occurs during a lab situation, the student will be sent directly to the office.

Rewards: Aside from the feelings of pride and satisfaction that come from a job well done, I will praise the students regularly for following the rules. On a random basis I will send notes of praise home or even call home to congratulate a student for making good choices. Bonus coupons can be earned for extra privileges. From time to time an entire class will be rewarded for good behavior with extra free time or a homework free pass.

Help sessions

The purpose of the help session is for reteaching material that the student may have had difficulty with the preceding week or may have missed due to an excused absence. It is an excellent time to make up a lab assignment missed due to an excused absence. It can also be used by a group of students working on a project together and needing a convenient place to meet. For these purposes, help sessions can be scheduled with me on Monday or Tuesday, after school

Finally, help sessions are very beneficial as review opportunities for an upcoming test. Help sessions for this purpose will be announced when the test is scheduled. They will usually be before school from 7:30-8:00, the day before the test.

Honor Code

In order to live as Jesus taught us to live, each student at GACS is expected to follow the school wide Honor Code.

In order to maintain honor in my relationships, I agree to do what is right, to speak the truth, and to strive for integrity in all that I do.

Therefore, I will not be involved in lying, cheating, or stealing. If I do vary from this path of honor, I will accept the correction from others and the established consequences of this school.

Honor is a goal that I seek to attain.

Thank you for taking the time to read through and to discuss this syllabus. If you have any questions or comments that you wish to discuss with me personally, please call me at school or home. However, email is my preferred manner of communication. When you do email me, please put your student's name in the subject line so that I will know to give your email immediate attention. At any time during the school year, please feel free to contact me to discuss any problems or concerns your student may be having in my class. Let us join in prayer together that this will be a very challenging and rewarding year for our Seventh Grade Students. After the sixth day of creation, "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." (Genesis 1: 31) May we say at the end of this school year together, that is was very good!

Mrs. Pat Lamb

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