Welcome to 7th grade science. This year we will be studying Life Science. We will build on concepts from previous grades and will study new concepts. I believe you learn science by doing science, and have planned a variety of fun labs and activities to do throughout the year. I am excited about this year and look forward to teaching you!

In order for the class to run smoothly, there are some expectations that must be met and some procedures that must be followed. I want to be sure you are aware of these so we can all work together to have a successful year.

CLASSROOM GOALS
The students will be able to apply the concepts mastered in 7th Grade Science in order to succeed on the 8th Grade Science STAAR Test and in future science courses.

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS
Participate in the lessons, submit all assignments when due, maintain interactive notebook in order to review information covered in class, and monitor course grades through Student Gradebook.

CLASSROOM RULES
Be Prepared!
Be Prompt!
Be Respectful (of others and their property)!
Follow all lab safety rules and class procedures!

ACTIVITIES
A typical lesson will include:
- Vocabulary building
- Laboratory investigations
- Interactive Notebook activities
- Critical writing
- Group collaboration/cooperative learning
- Unit review
- Assessment

GRADES
Daily (Formative) Grades will count 50%.
Mastery (Summative) Assessments will count 50%.
A = 90 average and above
B= 80-89 average
C= 70-79 average
F= 69 average or below

TOPICS
Unit 1: Science Safety
Unit 2: Life in Our Solar System
Unit 3: Force and Motion
Unit 4: Factors Impacting Earth Systems
Unit 5: Structure and Function of Cells
Unit 6: Structure and Function of Living Systems
Unit 7: Homeostasis
Unit 8: Physical, Chemical and Energy Changes in Digestion
Unit 9: Genetics
Unit 10: Genetic Variations and Adaptations
Unit 11: Organisms and the Environment
Unit 12: Flow of Energy
CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Entering the classroom
Students will gather needed supplies, place backpack in the designated area, and be seated.

Tardy to class
Any student not in their assigned seat when the bell rings will be considered tardy.

Supplies
The following items are a requirement for this course and should be brought to class daily:

- 1 Mead Five Star 3 to 5 subject spiral with the plastic cover – 150+ page, wide-rule or college-rule...your choice
- 1 Pencil bag containing:
  - Multi-colored pack of highlighters
  - Glue
  - Pens
  - 1 box of #2 wooden pencils
  - Red grading pen or pencil
  - 12 count colored pencils (map colors)
  - Small handheld pencil sharpener
  - Erasers

Textbooks
Students will receive their own consumable science textbook. Please contact Assistant Principal, Mr. Denoyer, to make arrangements to get another one if the book is misplaced at any time, as it is a requirement of this class.

Movies
Periodically, a PG or PG-13 movie or clip that incorporates the content and reinforces the topic will be shown. In order for the student to take advantage of this media, a parent or guardian must give permission on the attached signature page. The following videos warrant mention to concerned parents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIDEO TITLE</th>
<th>RATING</th>
<th>RATING EXPLANATION</th>
<th>MOVIE RELEVANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earth 2100</td>
<td>Not Rated</td>
<td>This is an ABC News special program that, although it is not rated, does include some intense scenes depicting real world scenarios.</td>
<td>This video does an excellent job of relating our actions today to possible outcomes in the future as it applies to Factors Impacting Earth Systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osmosis Jones</td>
<td>PG</td>
<td>Bodily Humor</td>
<td>This movie depicts the various levels of organization and how structures relate to functions. It’s a fun way to elaborate on a difficult lesson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jurassic Park</td>
<td>PG-13</td>
<td>Contains moderate violence and brief gory detail in the form of intense dinosaur attacks, and mild language. It is a mild PG-13 by today’s standards.</td>
<td>Used to connect the Genetics Unit to Genetic Variation and Adaptation, this movie opens the discussions of adaptations and their relationship to changing environments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Tracking daily assignments**
Students will submit completed assignments during class in the manner designated by the instructor. Any due assignments that are not submitted during class will be considered late.

**Returning assignments to students**
Submitted assignments will be returned for review prior to assessments.

**Finding out grade status**
Grades can be tracked through Student Gradebook, and Progress Reports will be sent home every three weeks. This is the responsibility of the student. If students have a question or concern regarding their status in the class, they can set an appointment with the instructor. Once grades are submitted, they are final.

**Student responsibilities after an absence**
- It is the responsibility of the student to get any work missed while absent.
- Students will have the number of days they were out to complete the missing assignments.
- Tests will be administered upon students return to class.

**Late, missing, or incomplete assignments**
Late assignments will have ten points deducted for each day past due. No work will be accepted more than three days past the due date, and any missing assignments are entered as a zero. Incomplete assignments will be graded as submitted.

**Failed assignments or tests**
Students may utilize the opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test within five school days of receiving the failing grade for the initial assignment or test. Each student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake a test one time for which the student received a failing grade to receive a maximum grade of 70 points.

**Ending Class**
Students are responsible for the cleanliness of their work area. They will be dismissed by the teacher, not the bell.

**CONSEQUENCES FOR CLASSROOM VIOLATIONS**
1\textsuperscript{st} Offense – Verbal warning allowing the student the opportunity to correct the behavior.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Offense – Teacher intervention (seat change, detention, student conference)
3\textsuperscript{rd} Offense – Parent notification/conference and detention
4\textsuperscript{th} Offense – Referral to Assistant Principal
CONSEQUENCES FOR CODE – OF – CONDUCT VIOLATIONS
Teachers will follow through with disciplinary referrals for violations of school wide rules, including dress code, unexcused absences, class disruptions and so forth, as mandated in the VISD Discipline Plan.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES WITH PARENTS AND FAMILIES
Weekly activities and class information will be posted on the school website. On the VISD homepage (www.visd.net) is a link to the parent page where grades can be checked. Parents are allowed to use the computers at the public library or Cade during the day, if internet access is not available at home. Any further communication can be accomplished through email or by leaving a message with Cade’s front desk using the information listed below.

I sincerely hope this will be your best year in science yet. I am looking forward to this school year and getting to know you. We are going to have a great time learning about the world in which we live.

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