7th Grade On-Level/Advanced Science

Ms. Rachel Collier
rcollier@ems-isd.net

Conference Period: 4th Period 10:55am – 11:42am

Tutoring: All tutoring in room 15, Mornings 7:45-8:15am Mon – Fri; Afternoons 3:45-4:15pm: Tu & Wed

Class Materials: Students should bring the supplies as listed on the 7th grade supply list found on the Parents tab of the district website. (click here to access the district supply list)

- 1 Composition Notebook
- Pencils [replace as needed through the year]
- Tape [replace as needed through the year]
- Colored pencils [replace as needed through the year]

Textbooks are kept in the classroom. If a student needs a textbook for home, contact Ms. Collier.

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our Single Sign-on Portal (SSO). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

7th Grade Advanced Science - This course is designed to provide students with the advanced skills necessary to be able to use evidence to construct testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena. While much of the focus is on organisms and the environment, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment. Advanced critical thinking and problem solving will be developed with individual or group research projects presented in a competitive or public forum. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for success.

7th Grade Science - This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to apply science concepts to their everyday life. Along with being able to ask questions and solve problems, students are able to collect and organize data, and draw conclusions based on their findings. While much of the focus is on organisms and the environment, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment. The students are encouraged to advance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by participating in individual or group research.

Course Goals: Students who complete this course successfully will be able to: use structures and their function to identify cells, identify the main functions of human body systems, explain variations in a population due to genetic variation, investigate and explain how plants respond to stimuli, observe and describe how biodiversity contributes to the sustainability of an ecosystem, identify and analyze accommodations that enable man's space exploration.

Student Evaluation:
The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student's conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), "The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

- Assignments not completed during class time are expected to be completed and brought to school to hand in at the beginning of class the next school day unless another due date is specified by the teacher.
- Students will be assigned projects that may require work to be done outside of class time and are major grades.
- Students will be provided with study guides for exams and are expected to study outside of the classroom.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

- When a student is absent, he or she should request the missed assignments and check the make-up folder for the work. Students have one day for each day missed plus one additional day in which to complete all make-up work. If there are special circumstances, the student should visit with me to consider arranging an extension of the due date. Any assignments given before the absence are due upon the student's return to school.
- If a pre-arranged absence is required, a parent should send a note to school prior to the absence. As much as possible, assignments may be given and completed ahead of time. Any assignments given before the absence are due upon the student's return to school.
- Students who are absent on the day that a test is given should be prepared to take the test upon their return to school. Make-up tests may need to be completed before or after school.
- Students are required to be in their assigned seats at the beginning of class as determined by the tardy bell. The Wayside Discipline Policy will be followed when a student is tardy to class.
- Students who fail to report to class on time will be subject to the following consequence:
  1st Tardy will result in a verbal warning.
  2nd Tardy will result in a phone call home
  3rd Tardy will result in a teacher detention before school or lunch detention
  4th Tardy will result in an office referral

Classroom Expectations:

- Upon entering the classroom, students should complete the beginning activity and be prepared to continue with class.
- Students should maintain an organized and detailed Interactive Student Notebook (ISN).
- Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions.
- All assignments should be completed with integrity and to the best of each student's ability.
- Appropriate behavior is expected from all students to maintain a safe and respectful classroom atmosphere.
- All electronics are OFF and away during the day unless the teacher directs you otherwise.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Unit 1: Organism & Environment, Energy – August 17 - Sept 16; District Common Assessment (DCA) Window Sept 12-16
Unit 2: Ecology – September 19 – October 28; DCA Window October 24 – October 28
Unit 3: Earth Processes – October 31 – December 16; DCA Window December 5 – December 9
Unit 4: Cells – January 3 - February 3; DCA Window January 30 - February 3
Unit 5: Human Body Systems; Force, Motion – February 13 – March 31; DCA Window March 27 – March 31
Unit 6: Genetics – April 3 – April 25 (Tested on DCA 6 at the end of Unit 7)
Unit 7: Variations and Adaptions – April 26 – May 18; DCA Window May 15 – May 18
Unit 8: Space – May 22 - 26

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.