



7th Grade Science

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Conference Period: 2nd Period 9:10 am to 10:00 am

Tutoring Opportunities:

- Wednesday and Thursday 3:30 pm –4:15 pm (Afterschool)
- Other times may be scheduled by appointment

Class Materials:

- EMS ISD Single Sign-On Class Link
- 2-3 Spiral or Composition Notebooks, Pens/Pencils, Colored Pencils, Scissors and Glue
- Additional Materials: Pens, pencils, colored pencils, scissors, and glue.
- If a student is in need of a device outside of school hours, they may be checked out via Mrs. Aragon

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:

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 can 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:

- Demonstrate safe practices during laboratory and field investigations
- Relate the characteristics of a living organism
- Demonstrate how to use a dichotomous key
- Understand cell theory and basic structure of cells
- Explain the cycling of matter in living systems

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor

- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Each six weeks will count as 1/6 and the semester exam will count as 1/7 of the semester grade.
- 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. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments and quizzes. 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:

Students will be expected to take appropriate notes, complete labs and required class assignments. Students will be accessed through informal assignments, such as discussions and quick writes, short quizzes, and formal exams. All assignments will have a due date listed in CANVAS. Official grades will be posted in Skyward Family and Student Access.

Students are also expected to stay on task and take notes in their Interactive Science Notebooks; be it a Spiral/Composition notebook or OneNote application.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

- Please also refer to the EMSISD Student Handbook for district policies concerning Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-up Work and Student Code of Conduct.
- Make-up work and re-doing assignments will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- 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.

Classroom Expectations:

- RESPECT is #1: Respect for others, each other, and the classroom. Students will be expected to follow campus guidelines for behavior as outlined in the EMSISD Student Handbook.
- COMMUNICATION is Key: Speak up when you need assistance and understanding of what is being asked of you if you are not sure.
- Students are required to be in their assigned seats at the beginning of class before tardy bell rings. This will be discussed with students along with classroom procedures during first day of school.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Unit 1:

Introduction to Science Safety

Photosynthesis

Tropisms & Turgor Pressure
Adaptations and Variations
Dichotomous Keys
Unit 2:
Biomes
Food Chains, Food Webs, Energy Pyramids
Biodiversity
Succession
Unit 3:
Catastrophic Events
Weathering, Erosion, Deposition
Watersheds & Groundwater
Unit 4:
Cell Theory
Plant and Animal Cells
Organization of Organisms
Unit 5:
Human Body Systems
Chemical and Physical Changes in Digestion
Energy and Force
Unit 6:
Reproduction Chromosomes
Heredity
Unit 7:
Variations and Adaptations
Unit 8:
Space

Academic Integrity: Update from GRH

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.