



Course Name:	Life Science	Course Code:	
School Name:	Salem Middle School	Teacher Name:	Roslynn Stewart
Contact #:		Teacher Email:	Roslynn_stewart@dekalbschoolsga.org
School Website:	http://salemms.dekalb.k12.ga.us/	Teacher Website:	http://salemms.dekalb.k12.ga.us/RoslynnStewart.aspx

Course Description

The middle school life science course is designed to give students the necessary skills for a smooth transition from elementary life science standards to high school biology standards. The purpose is to give all students an overview of common strands in life science including, but not limited to, diversity of living organisms, structure and function of cells, heredity, ecosystems, and biological evolution. Students will develop the skill necessary to keep records of their observations and use those records to analyze the data they collect. They observe and use observations to explain diversity of living organisms and how the organisms are classified. They use different models to represent systems such as cells, tissues, and organs. They use what they know about ecosystems to explain the cycling of matter and energy. They use the concepts of natural selection and fossil evidence in explanations. Seventh graders write instructions, describe observations, and show information in graphical form. When analyzing the data they collect, seventh graders can recognize relationships in simple charts and graphs and find more than one way to interpret their findings. The students replicate investigations and compare results to find similarities and differences (Georgia Department of Education).

Please refer to the Georgia Performance Standards for detailed listings of standards. (www.georgiastandards.org).

Fall School Year Curriculum Overview

The following academic concepts will be covered. *This Is Only A Guide And Is Subject To Change.*

Thematic Units	Standard	Duration	Textbook Resources
Unit 1 Cell Functions/Organ Systems	S7L2	9 weeks	Chapter 2: It's Alive, or Is It? Chapter 3: Cells: The Basic Units of Life Chapter 4: The Cell in Action Chapters 22-27: Human Body
Unit 2 Heredity	S7L3	6 weeks	Chapter 5: Heredity Chapter 6: Genes and Gene Technology
Unit 3 Evolution	S7L5	3 weeks	Chapter 7: The Evolution of Living Things Chapter 8: History of Life on Earth

BOARD-APPROVED INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Class Set Resource		Online Resource	
Title	GA Holt Science & Technology Life Science	Online book and/or resources	www.my.hrw.com
ISBN		Online textbook student access code	<i>Will be assigned by teacher</i>
Replacement Cost	\$67.50		

GRADING SYSTEM

The DeKalb County School District believes that the most important assessment of student learning shall be conducted by the teachers as they observe and evaluate students in the context of ongoing classroom instruction. A variety of approaches, methodologies, and resources shall be used to deliver educational services and to maximize each student's opportunity to succeed. Teachers shall evaluate student progress, report grades that represent the student's academic achievement, and communicate official academic progress to students and parents in a timely manner through the electronic grading portal. See Board Policy IHA.

GRADING CATEGORIES		
Formative Assessment	Formal or Informal Pre-Assessments	0%
Assessment During Learning	Skills Assessment (Warm-Up), Quizzes, Projects	25%
Guided, Independent, or Group Practice	Classwork, Project or Performance Tasks, Homework	45%
Summative Assessment or Assessment of Learning	Formal Post-Assessment Test, Culminating Project or Performance, Final or Culminating Exam	30%
*GRADE PROTOCOL		
A	90 – 100	
B	80 – 89	
C	71 – 79	~ P (pass)
D	70	~ F (fail)
F	Below 70	

Notes:

* English Learners (ELs) must not receive numerical or letter grades for the core content areas in elementary and middle school during their first year of language development. A grade of CS or CU must be assigned. This rule may be extended beyond the first year with approval from the EL Studies Program. English Learners must receive a grade for ESOL courses.

~ Elementary schools will utilize P (pass) and F (fail) in Health/Physical Education, Music, World Languages, Visual Arts and Performing Arts.

DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS	
STUDENT PROGRESS	Semester progress reports shall be issued four and a half, nine and thirteen and a half weeks into each semester. The progress of students shall be evaluated frequently and plans shall be generated to remediate deficiencies as they are discovered. Plans shall include appropriate interventions designed to meet the needs of the students. See Board Policy IH.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY	Students will not engage in an act of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, providing false information, falsifying school records, forging signatures, or using an unauthorized computer user ID or password. See the Code of Student Conduct - Student Rights and Responsibilities and Character Development Handbook.
HOMEWORK	Homework assignments should be meaningful and should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience. Homework is at all times an extension of the teaching/learning experience. It should be considered the possession of the student and should be collected, evaluated and returned to the students. See Board Policy IHB.
MAKE-UP WORK DUE TO ABSENCES	When a student is absent because of a legal reason as defined by Georgia law or when the absence is apparently beyond the control of the student, the student shall be given an opportunity to earn grade(s) for those days absent. Make-up work must be completed within the designated time allotted. See Board Policy IHEA.
SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS	
CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS	Students must adhere to the DCSS Student Code of conduct as well as specific classroom rules.
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES CHECKLIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [] 2- 100 sheets Composition Notebooks [] 1 zipper pouch [] 2 - packs color pencils [] 4 highlighters in different colors [] 1 pair of student scissors [] ample supply of glue sticks [] black and blue ink pens [] personal pencil sharpeners with compartment to catch shavings. [] #2 pencils (NO MECHANICAL PENCILS) [] 4 packs of loose leaf notebook paper <p>NOTE: Other supplies will be added for projects as the need arise. Parents will be given ample notice before a project is due.</p>
EXTRA HELP	Please contact me as needed, I will provide opportunities to complete missing assignments. All late assignments must be completed within each grading period.
PARENTS AS PARTNERS	Homework and projects are expected to be completed as assigned.