



# Journey Middle School

217 Celtic Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

## Environmental Explorations - 7th and 8th Grade

### Thomas

Teacher Contact Information	Email: lethomas@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: Ext. 84303
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: <a href="https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2880">https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2880</a> Schoology Link: Distribution List Link: <a href="https://forms.gle/w2s5vCKGuCHvhTCb6">https://forms.gle/w2s5vCKGuCHvhTCb6</a>
Textbook Information	This course has no textbook. Relevant materials will be accessed in class and through Schoology as needed.
Course Description	9 Weeks Course Are you a field biologist trapped in a middle school body? Then this is the class for you! The Environmental Explorations elective encourages students to investigate the important roles of plant and animal life in our natural and native ecosystems by focusing on zoology, ecology, and botany. Students will discover, explore, and learn to identify native plant and animal species of North Alabama through various project-based activities and will investigate the ecological importance of these organisms in a functioning ecosystem. They will learn basic field biology sampling methods and use these methods to conduct research on plant and animal life surrounding the school. Students will also actively participate in the development and maintenance of Journey's Outdoor Classroom, a vital component of environmental explorers everywhere!
Credentialing	None
Course Objectives	Students will explore local environments and how its elements interact with one another. They will engage with scientific practices of classification with plant and animal species, with a focus on those native to the region of northern Alabama. They will develop and execute plans for the school's first outdoor space for learning.
CTSO Integration (JMS Career Technical Student Organization is TSA) <a href="https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Page/8087">https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Page/8087</a>	Technology Student Association, TSA, is a <b>career technical student organization</b> and a fundamental part of this course. It is a national career and technical student organization of students engaged in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). TSA is integrated into the program which includes competitions and leadership opportunities. TSA provides students with activities during their class time and after school with our local TSA Chapter. <i>TSA Based Activities relevant to CSIM include but are not limited to: Lab Safety Posters, Coding Challenges, Career Prep, Cyber Security, Essays on Technology, Challenging Tech Issues.</i>
Course Outline	Week 1 - Unit 1: Plants Week 2 - Unit 1: Plants Week 3 - Unit 1: Plants Week 4 - Unit 2: Animals

	<p>Week 5 - Unit 2: Animals</p> <p>Week 6 - Unit 2: Animals</p> <p>Week 7 - Unit 3: Ecosystems</p> <p>Week 8 - Unit 3: Ecosystems</p> <p>Week 9 - Unit 3: Ecosystems</p> <p><i>*This is subject to change.</i></p>
<b>Classroom Expectations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be prepared to learn each day.</li> <li>2. Bring necessary materials to class each day.</li> <li>3. Treat yourself and others with respect.</li> <li>4. Respect the belongings and personal space of others.</li> <li>5. Be responsible for all technology and supplies.</li> <li>6. Set high expectations for yourself.</li> <li>7. Follow all district-level, school-level, and classroom-level policies and procedures.</li> </ol>
<b>Progressive Discipline Procedures</b> <i>(JMS Policy)</i>	<p><b>All progressive discipline will correspond with the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct regarding Class I and II offenses. Class III offenses are a direct office referral.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warning</li> <li>• Conference with student with parent notification</li> <li>• Parent Contact</li> <li>• Detention</li> <li>• Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and III offenses--Consequences determined to be reasonable and appropriate by the school administration.</li> </ul>
<b>Cell Phone Procedures</b>	<p>Cell phones and earbuds/headphones will not be allowed to be used during classroom instruction time. Phones and earbuds/headphones will be put away in a location designated by the teacher and placed in silent mode. In secondary schools, students will have access to their phones and earbuds/headphones outside of classroom instruction time, such as between classes and during lunch, but devices should be put away when students are in the lunch serving line. Failure to follow these procedures will result in a disciplinary referral to the office.</p>
<b>Grading Policy</b> <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>60%</b> = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects)</li> <li>• <b>40%</b> = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</li> <li>• <b>Testing Days:</b> Mondays and Thursdays</li> </ul>
<b>Late Work Policy</b>	<p>Late work in CTE/STEM classes will not be accepted due to the brief nature of the classes. Students are expected to follow up with teachers upon return from an excused absence.</p> <p>Students present in class on the day of instruction are expected to turn in all in-class and out-of-class assignments on time.</p>
<b>Make-up Work/Test Policy</b>	<p>Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within <b>three</b> days of returning to school. It is the <b>student's responsibility</b> to ask for make-up work. Students can get with a classmate or ask the teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including tests/quizzes). Many times, missed quizzes and tests can be made up during school.</p>
<b>Technology</b>	<p>Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. Neither the teacher nor the school is responsible for broken,</p>

	<p>stolen, or lost laptops. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.</p>
<p><b>Cheating/Plagiarism</b></p>	<p>A student who cheats will not receive credit for the work in question. If any other student has cooperated in cheating, that student is also considered to have cheated and will not receive credit. Cheating students will also be subject to the consequences in the disciplinary consequences in Section XXII of this CSC. Cheating is defined to include, but is not limited to:</p> <p>(a) copying someone else's work in or out of class and identifying and submitting it as your own</p> <p>(b) failing to quote and/or list appropriate citations for material derived from published sources (including the Internet) and identifying and submitting it as your own</p> <p>(c) the use of unauthorized notes, other materials, or assistance during the accomplishment of graded work in or out of class</p> <p>(d) any other situation in which the student attempts to or accepts credit for work not his or her own.</p>
<p><b>Homework</b></p>	<p>Students are allotted time in class to complete assignments. In the event that a student is absent or does not finish during class time, they will need to complete the assignment for homework.</p>
<p><b>Parent &amp; Student Acknowledgment Form</b></p>	<p>Please click <a href="#">this link</a> to find and complete the Parent / Guardian and Student Syllabus Acknowledgement Form for this class. This form acknowledges that you have read and understand the expectations and procedures of the class. Please contact me with any questions!</p>