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|  | **Liberty Middle School**  ***281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758***  **7th Grade Life Science**  **Ms. Madison Peterson** |

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| **Teacher Contact Information** | **Email:** mkpeterson@madisoncity.k12.al.us  **Classroom Phone:** 256-430-0001 ext. 83238  **Room:** Blue Pod 238 |
| **Classroom Digital Platforms** | **Webpage Link:** [**https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2920**](https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2920)  **Schoology Link:** [**https://madisoncity.schoology.com/**](https://madisoncity.schoology.com/) |
| **Textbook Information** | The Smithsonian STC Middle School books will be used during in-class assignments. Student logins for digital versions through Carolina Science will be provided for at-home resources. |
| **Course Description** | 7th Grade Life Science is a semester-long course based on the new Alabama 7th Grade Science Standards. This course will include in-class activities, labs, projects, quizzes, and exams. A comprehensive final exam will also take place at the end of the course. This course is designed to review scientific principles and methods, teach students how to apply these in a life science context, and introduce students to new content about living organisms and ecosystems. Students will develop critical thinking skills as they learn to make observations, draw conclusions, and explain scientific phenomena. This course will utilize a mixture of notes, paper assignments, computer assignments, hands-on labs, and short-term projects. |
| **Course Objectives** | Students can use the scientific method to investigate a phenomenon.  Students can properly use laboratory equipment to safely conduct experiments.  Students can explain the functions of cellular structures needed to maintain homeostasis.  Students can explain how photosynthesis and cellular respiration cycle matter and energy in ecosystems.  Students can communicate information about how organs work together to make up organ systems.  Students can model the flow of genetic information from DNA to RNA to protein.  Students can explain the advantages and disadvantages of asexual and sexual reproduction.  Students can demonstrate how genes are inherited from parents to offspring.  Students can explain the patterns of interactions between organisms, populations, and their environment. |
| **Course Outline** | **Unit 1:** Lab Safety, Lab Skills, and Nature of Science  **Unit 2:** Cells  **Unit 3:** Bioenergetics (Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration)  **Unit 4:** Human Body Systems  **Unit 5:** DNA  **Unit 6:** Reproduction  **Unit 7:** Genetics and Evolution  **Unit 8:** Ecosystems  *Each unit will end in an exam and/or project. The order of topics is subject to change with prior notice from the teacher.* |
| **Classroom Expectations** | 1. **Be respectful towards others and the learning environment**: Respect others’ talk time, opinions, identities, interests, and personal space, and help create a classroom where everyone can learn.  2. **Follow directions immediately**: Obey the teacher’s instructions promptly without arguing or complaining.  3. **Use class time wisely**: Be prepared and on time for class, stay focused on completing work, and ask for help when needed.  4. **Be responsible with all personal and school property:** Use supplies safely and as intended, and help take care of the classroom and its items.  5. **Follow all school rules**: Continue to follow all school rules on safety, dress, and conduct when in the classroom. |
| **Progressive Discipline**  ***(LMS Policy)*** | **Step 1:** Verbal warning  **Step 2:** Student/teacher conference  **Step 3:** Parent contact/conference  **Step 4:** Detention and a parent contact  **Step 5:** Office referral |
| **Grading Policy**  ***(MCS Policy)*** | **60%** = Assessments (Tests and Projects)  **40%** = Daily Grades (Quizzes and Daily Classwork) |
| **Late Work Policy** | **Late work turned in after the due date will be taken for partial credit.**  **1 Day Late: 70% maximum credit**  **2 Days Late: 60% maximum credit**  **3-7 Days Late: 50% maximum credit**  **No late work will be accepted after 1 week past the due date.**  *Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Students can apply for a no-penalty assignment extension using a form located in the classroom.* |
| **Make-up Work/Test Policy** | **Students who are absent will need to communicate with the teacher to receive modified due dates.** It is the students’ responsibility to find out what they missed and how to make it up.Many times, missed quizzes and tests can be made up during school, but it is the student’s responsibility to complete missing classwork at home, if necessary. |
| **Materials & Supplies** | **A 3-ring binder (1-in minimum) is highly recommended for keeping note packets**. Students will have access to a personal file folder kept in the classroom to store graded assignments if needed. |
| **Homework** | **No work will be assigned as homework, but missing assignments not completed during class time may need to be completed at home if the student is absent or does not manage their time in class properly.** |
| **AI Policy** | **MCS Policy:** District policy is that it is the school’s responsibility to educate students on AI and train them to utilize in an ethical way. AI software collects personal data and are usually blocked for that reason when school email addresses are used.  **Ms. Peterson’s Classroom Policy:** AI-assisted or AI-created work could be permissible depending on the assignment. **STUDENTS MUST ASK PERMISSION FIRST BEFORE USING AI TO ASSIST WITH AN ASSIGNMENT.** The use of AI must significantly enhance the student’s learning to be permissible. **AI-created work without prior permission will not be accepted**. Students should adhere to the MCS AI Policy at all times while on school devices or using a school account. |
| **Cellphone Policy**  ***(MCS Policy)*** | **Student use of cellphones in classrooms is now prohibited.** Students are to keep cell phones in their backpacks during class or they will be asked to place them in a holder along the wall. The progressive discipline policy will be enforced for continual infractions. Exceptions for educational purposes may be occasionally granted by the teacher. |
| **Parent and Student Acknowledgment Form and Lab Safety Contract** | **Please complete the Syllabus Acknowledgment Form and Lab Safety Contract and return them to the teacher. The Lab Safety Contract must be signed by both student and parent in order for the student to participate in labs.** |

***This syllabus is subject to change. If it changes, the teacher will contact parents and students.***

**Parent and Student Acknowledgment Form**

I acknowledge that I have read the syllabus for Life Science and agree to adhere to its policies and expectations for conduct. I understand that if I do not meet the classroom expectations for behavior, I will subject to consequences as described by the LMS Progressive Discipline Policy. I understand the policies for missing work, absences, grading, and technology use. I understand that the syllabus is subject to change with notice from the teacher.

Teacher/Subject: Ms. Madison Peterson, 7th Grade Life Science

Student (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_