Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

7th Grade Life Science

Ms. Madison Peterson

Teacher Contact Information	**Email:** mkpeterson@madisoncity.k12.al.us **Classroom Phone:** 256-430-0001 ext. 83238 **Room:** Blue Pod 238
Classroom Digital Platforms and Instructional Materials	**Webpage Link:** https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2920 **Schoology Link:** https://madisoncity.schoology.com/ **IXL:** https://www.ixl.com/ **(Please sign in through Clever)** **Savvas Realize: Login with Clever (Savvas EasyBridge)** *Parents and guardians can access other supplementary materials through Schoology.*
Textbook Information	*Elevate Middle Grades Science: Life* (2019) by Savvas Learning Company Physical and digital versions of the textbook will be provided. Copies of the physical textbook can be accessed in the classroom. Students will be given access to a digital copy through Clever (Savvas EasyBridge).
Materials & Supplies	**A 3-ring binder (1-in minimum) is needed for keeping note packets**. Students will also need to come to class prepared with general school supplies, such as their Chromebook, charger, and pencils.
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:** Nature of Science **Unit 2:** Cell Structure and Function **Unit 3:** Cellular Energy and Cell Transport **Unit 4:** Nuclear Processes **Unit 5:** Inheritance and Reproduction **Unit 6:** Human Body Systems **Unit 7:** Matter and Energy Flow **Unit 8:** Population Dynamics **Unit 9:** Unity and Diversity *Each unit will include 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 the MCS Code of Conduct on safety, dress, and behavior at all times while in the classroom. **Cell phones must be OFF and in a backpack from 8:15 am – 3:20 pm.**
Technology Procedures and Digital Device/Cell Phone Policy ***(AL State/MCS Policy)***	Effective July 1, 2025, the use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communications Devices including but not limited to **cellular telephones, tablet computers, laptop computers, pagers, gaming devices, smart watches, earphones or headphones** in school buildings or on school grounds during the Instructional Day, is prohibited. Violation of Board policy with respect to such use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communication Devices will constitute a Class II violation. Madison City Schools has outlined an Electronic/Wireless Device Policy (Policy 6.20) on page 138 of the MCS Policy Manual. **Students should bring their MCS Chromebooks and chargers to class each day.** Teachers monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and using their MCS accounts.
Progressive Discipline ***(LMS Policy)***	**Step 1:** Verbal warning **Step 2:** Student/teacher conference with parent notification **Step 3:** Parent contact/conference **Step 4:** Detention **Step 5:** 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 *Note: All levels of classroom discipline will be documented in PowerSchool. For infractions that start as a Class II or higher, as stated in the code of conduct, the student may be sent to the office with an office disciplinary referral and be excluded from the classroom; however, before referring a child with disabilities to the office for exclusionary discipline, the teacher will first ensure that they have complied with the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).*
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 request a no-penalty assignment extension through communication with the teacher.*
Make-up Work/Test Policy	Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility 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 quizzes/tests).
Homework	No work will be assigned as homework, but 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.
Parent and Student Acknowledgment Form and Lab Safety Contract	**Please complete the Syllabus Acknowledgment Form and Lab Safety Contract and return it to the teacher.**

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

Parent and Student Acknowledgment Form/Lab Safety Contract

I acknowledge that I have read the syllabus and lab safety rules for Life Science and agree to adhere to their policies and expectations for conduct. I understand that if I do not meet the classroom expectations for behavior, I will be 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 breaking any of the lab safety rules will result in consequences and could result in removal from all current and future lab activities if the infraction is serious enough. I will do my part to help keep lab conditions safe, follow the proper procedures for equipment and organisms, and notify the teacher of any emergencies or issues in the lab. 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) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian (Print Name) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date_____