

College Prep Science

7th Grade • 2024-2025

Course Description

South Carolina seventh-grade students engage in thinking and solving problems the way scientists and engineers do to help them better see how science is relevant to their lives. To capitalize on the natural curiosity all students have about the world around them, learning experiences are built around the three dimensions of science: **Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs)**, **Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs)**, and **Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs)**. This three-dimensional approach to teaching and learning helps educators provide meaningful learning experiences that offer varied entry points for students from diverse backgrounds.

Standards and Objectives

Course standards can be found on the state department website or by following this link: <https://bit.ly/3bFK1pR>.

Instructional Goals

- Solve problems using the scientific method.
- Analyze patterns and draw conclusions.
- Conduct research, hypothesize, test and evaluate solutions, and share discoveries.
- Engage in arguments about real scientific data.
- Learn about the diversity of life and how organisms relate to their environment.

Tutoring

Tutoring will be available upon request as needed. More information about tutoring will be sent out via Google Classroom.

Quarter 1

- Lab Safety and Tools
- Science Investigation Skills
- Chemistry

Quarter 2

- Science Fair (optional)
- Energy and Motion
- Photosynthesis and Respiration

Quarter 3

- Ecosystems
- Biodiversity
- Energy Resources

Quarter 4

- Human Impact on the Environment
- Human Body Systems

Textbook & Resources

Students will have online access to STEMscopes through their chromebook. Hard copies of the STEMscopes student textbook will be kept in class.

The Google Calendar for the class can be accessed through Google Classroom or from the teacher's website. **This calendar will include information and due dates for assignments and assessments.**

Communication

Communication will be through Google Classroom, PowerSchool, and email. Expect a response within 48 hours.

Parent Portal

IMPORTANT - Please check your Parent Portal account in order to keep track of your child's grades through PowerSchool. Contact our front office (803-476-3600) for assistance in setting up your Parent Portal credentials. You will need an ID.

Uniform Grading Policy

The IMS Science Department will use category weights to determine the final grade. Please see the list of categories below. Major grades will be entered into the gradebook within ten school days while minor grades will be entered within five school days. Midterm and final exams will count as 20% of the semester grade. Please see the chart below for grade category and weights.

Grading Category	Number of Assignments per Nine-Weeks <small>(minimum)</small>	Total Weight	Weight per Assignment	Grade Scale	
Practice Homework/Classwork	6	15%	2.5%	90-100	A
				80-89	B
Minor Quizzes/Labs	6	40%	6.7%	70-79	C
				60-69	D
Major Tests/Projects	3	45%	15%	Below 60	F

Science Fair

Your child is **NOT** required to complete a science fair project. If they **choose** to complete a science fair project, your child will receive an extra credit project grade. Contact your child's teacher for more details.

Materials

- **Charged Chromebook**
- **Pencils, Pencils, Pencils, Pencils**
- 3-Ring Binder or Pocket Folder
- Notebook Paper
- Colored Pencils or Crayons

Science Lab Safety

Science lab is a special classroom where engaging experiments and interesting activities happen throughout the year. In order to provide all students with a safe lab classroom, it is important to learn about and understand the importance of lab safety rules. All students AND guardians must **agree to, sign, and return** the attached science contract form in order to participate in lab activities.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom will be used for student's assignments and our class calendar. If you are not already connected to Google Classroom, please look forward to an email with your information to get logged in to our class.

Attendance and Late Work

As this is a lab science class, attendance is very important! Some labs can be made up, but others cannot. Those that cannot be made up will be excused if the student has an excused absence. HOWEVER, students will not be excused from the material being taught. Tests and other assignments are to be made up upon their return to class. Students are responsible for getting their make-up work when they return to class.

Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the teacher, with late penalty.

Signature Page & Contact Information

Please keep this syllabus and lab safety rules for your records and complete/return the contract form to show that you and your child have read, understood and agreed to the syllabus and lab safety contract. Looking forward to an exciting year of discovery and learning!

PURPOSE

Science is a hands-on laboratory class. However, science activities may have potential hazards. We will use some equipment and animals that may be dangerous if not handled properly. Safety in the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process. To ensure a safe classroom, a list of rules has been developed and is called the Science Safety Contract. These rules must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions will be given for each activity.

No science student will be allowed to participate in science activities until this contract has been signed by both the student and a parent or guardian.

SAFETY RULES

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the science room. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks will not be tolerated.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. Ask your teacher questions if you do not understand the instructions.
3. Do not touch any equipment, supplies, animals, or other materials in the science room without permission from the teacher.
4. Perform only authorized and approved experiments. Do not conduct any experiments when the teacher is out of the room.
5. Never eat, drink, chew gum, or taste anything in the science room.
6. Keep hands away from face, eyes, and mouth while using science materials or when working with either chemicals or animals. Wash your hands with soap and water before leaving the science room.
7. Wear safety glasses or goggles when instructed. Never remove safety glasses or goggles during an experiment. There will be no exceptions to this rule!
8. Keep your work area and the science room neat and clean. Bring only your laboratory instructions, worksheets, and writing instruments to the work area.
9. Clean all work areas and equipment at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
10. Follow your teacher's instructions to dispose of any waste materials generated in an experiment.
11. Report any accident (fire, spill, breakage, etc.), injury (cut, burn, etc.), or hazardous condition (broken equipment, etc.) to the teacher immediately.
12. Consider all chemicals used in the science room to be dangerous. Do not touch or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.
13. Handle all animals with care and respect.
 - a. Open animal cages only with permission.
 - b. Never handle any animals when the teacher is out of the room.
 - c. Do not take animals out of the science room.
 - d. Do not tease or handle animals roughly.
 - e. Keep animals away from students' faces.
 - f. Wear gloves when handling animals.
 - g. Report any animal bite or scratch to the teacher immediately.
14. Always carry a microscope with both hands. Hold the arm with one hand; place the other hand under the base.
15. Treat all preserved specimens and dissecting supplies with care and respect.
 - a. Do not remove preserved specimens from the science room.
 - b. Use scalpels, scissors, and other sharp instruments only as instructed.
 - c. Never cut any material towards you—always cut away from your body.
 - d. Report any cut or scratch from sharp instruments to the teacher immediately.
16. Never open storage cabinets or enter the prep/storage room without permission from the teacher.
17. Do not remove chemicals, equipment, supplies, or animals from the science room without permission from the teacher.
18. Handle all glassware with care. Never pick up hot or broken glassware with your bare hands.
19. Use extreme caution when using matches, a burner, or hot plate. Only light burners when instructed and do not put anything into a flame unless specifically instructed to do so. Do not leave a lit burner unattended.
20. Dress properly—long hair must be tied back, no dangling jewelry, and no loose or baggy clothing. Wear aprons when instructed.
21. Learn where the safety equipment is located and how to use it. Know where the exits are located and what to do in case of an emergency or fire drill.

Science Contract Form

*****By submitting this form, you certify that you and your child have read, understand and agree to the lab safety contract.***

Child's Name	Child's Signature
Parent 1 Name	Parent 2 Name
Parent 1 Signature	Parent 2 Signature
Parent 1: Best Contact Number(s)	Parent 2: Best Contact Number(s)
Parent 1: Best Email(s)	Parent 2: Best Email(s)
Date:	Date:

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Please put any questions that you may have for your science teacher in the space below.

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Does your child wear contact lenses? Yes No	Is your child color blind? Yes No
Does your child have allergies? Yes No	If so, what allergies? _____

In the space below, please put any other information that you would like me to know about your child.

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RETURN to your science teacher.