

Kennedy Secondary School

7th Grade Life Science
2025-2026 Academic Year

Name _____

Period _____

Teacher: Mr. Kohorst

Classroom: 2417

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Phone: 218-998-0544 ext. 9663

Office Hours: Before or after school (I am here at 7:45am most days and leave at 4pm).

Class Description

Welcome to seventh grade science class! I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year with you. Seventh grade science will offer you the opportunity to explore some interesting topics in science. Science is mankind's effort to learn about our world through the processes of observation and experimentation. Along with learning basic science processes and skills, our class will be focusing on the following areas this year:

- The World of Life Science
- Cell Structure and Processes
- Interactions of Living Things
- Heredity, Evolution, and Classification
- Dissection and Body Systems

This course includes many hands-on lab activities. Your success in this class will rely on your participation during these activities. Your participation and cooperation are vital to making this class a positive experience for everyone. My main goal as your teacher is to help you succeed both in the classroom and in life. Science is a fascinating and applicable subject that helps us better understand the workings of the world around us. Many of the skills and concepts taught in this class can be used throughout your life.

Classroom Rules

- **Be Responsible**
- **Be Respectful**. This means listening while others are talking; keeping hands, feet, and other body parts to yourself; I believe that this is a catch all rule. Meaning that if you follow this rule, we shouldn't have to worry about much else.
- No Cell Phones. If I see or hear a cell phone, I will take it. Per middle school policy, I will take the phone to the office where it can be picked up. The same goes for ear phones. I know what they connect to.

Expectations

- Be in your seat, with all materials ready, when class starts.
- Stay focused on the lesson/task at hand; do not distract others from their learning.
- Listen attentively to whoever is speaking.
- **BE POLITE**. I will always try to be polite with you and I expect that you do your best to be polite with me and others.
- Try your best and work hard.
- **Ask Questions!!!!**
- **TEAMWORK** – This course requires an extreme group effort. While each person must complete and turn in their own work, study groups and cooperative effort are strongly encouraged. Science is a collaborative field and real scientists must work together to achieve great things. Also, you never learn something as well as when you explain it to someone else..

Procedures/Routines

All of us have certain routines that we go through each day (e.g., getting ready in the morning, the route we take to school, preparing and eating meals). These routines save us time and simplify the tasks we must perform. In a similar way, there are classroom routines, or “procedures,” that help a class function more effectively as a whole. The following are a few of the most important ones:

Beginning the class period: You are expected to find your assigned seat and begin working on the bell-ringer immediately.

Quieting the class: You should quiet down and look up front whenever I signal that I need your attention. If there is a safety issue, I will shout “Emergency!” It is particularly important to be quiet at that time.

Seeking help: You should quietly raise your hand whenever you need help (questions, comments, requests, etc.).

Ending the class period: You will remain at your desk or lab and continue working until you are excused.

These and other procedures will be taught and followed throughout the school year to help us use our class time effectively and get the most out of each period together.

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on points earned on tests, quizzes, activities, homework, in-class assignments, projects and participation.

Tests will always be announced at least two days in advance.

Quizzes **will** be announced. I **do not** give pop quizzes.

Many, but not all, major projects and assignments are cooperative group efforts. No student will be permitted to jeopardize the group's performance of an assigned task. Any student who is repeatedly disruptive or who misuses class time/ materials will receive a deduction on their grade and appropriate discipline.

Homework

Expect to have some homework in this class. I will do my best to give you time to work in class but you can expect to have assignments to take home with you. Assignments are due on the day after they are given unless stated otherwise.

PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR WORK. That is the first thing you should do when you get something new from me. I can't give you credit for it if I don't know you did it. Most of the assignments that I give have a Name and Period line in the top right corner.

Each class has a homework bin on the counter at the back of the room. Any completed work to be turned in should be put in your class's homework bin. DO NOT put your completed assignments on my desk. They may get lost or shuffled in with other papers. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TURN IN HOMEWORK.

I DO NOT GIVE OUT EXTRA CREDIT. Your grade is yours meaning that you earn your grade, I do not give you a grade. (I will sometimes give it on Tests and Quizzes)

Late and Make-Up Work

In the event of an excused absence, it will be the **student's responsibility** to ask and look for what work was missed. All assignments and daily activities will be posted in a designated notebook located at the make-up work area. Additionally, it is the student's responsibility to schedule an appropriate time to make up tests and/or quizzes.

Any assignment turned in late will receive deductions. Deductions are 20% of the assignment's grade. Assignments will not be accepted after the quarter. Any assignment not turned in will be given a grade of zero. Late or missing work should be put in the basket at the front of the room.

If you have an assignment that is 70% or more complete, turn it in for partial credit. **REMEMBER** Partial credit is better than a 0!

Materials

Once class gets into full swing, students should come to class with these 4 items every day:

1. Science notebook
2. Science folder/binder
3. Writing instrument (pencil)
4. Chromebook and charger

Grading Scale

100 - 95% A
94 - 90% A-
89 - 88% B+
87 - 85% B
83 - 79% B-
78 - 76% C+
75 - 74% C
73 - 69% C-
68 - 66% D+
65 - 64% D
63 - 60% D-
59% and lower F

Keys to Success in Life Science

1. Attend class
2. Bring a positive attitude
3. Complete and turn in assignments on time.
4. Ask Questions, Ask Questions, Ask Questions.

A Few Finals Things

I have very little tolerance for disrespectful behavior to myself or to your classmates. You will be asked to stop or reminded of the class rules. If it continues, you will be asked to spend the rest of class in the hall and then have a talk with me about how we can move forward. If it continues after, you will be referred and sent to the office.

Writing utensils. If you poke, throw or do anything inappropriate with your writing utensil, you will lose pencil/writing utensil privileges for a week. Don't worry I have crayons that you can write with.

I have read and understand the above rules and expectations for 7th grade Life Science. I agree to follow these rules and expectations.

Parents, please go to your child's Life Science Google Classroom. Click on the "Classwork" tab. This is where you will find any homework/assignments that we do on the chromebooks. Open the assignment titled "Parent/Guardian assignment" and complete that task there.

Thanks,
Mr. K

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Syllabus signature due Monday 9/8. You will receive extra credit!

Please just return the signatures. I would like you to keep the rest of the syllabus.