

# 7th Grade Science Syllabus 2019-2020

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*Scarlett Middle School is an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School that embraces the adolescent learner, establishment of trusting relationships, and development of independent, responsible citizens. The IB approach is grounded on the following five pillars:*

- **Inquiry** - students asking questions, students finding answers.
- **Global awareness** - connecting to the local, state, national and international community.
- **Action and Service** - learning by doing, making a positive impact.
- **World languages** - all students learning a world language.
- **Access and Equity** - intentional development of curriculum and supports connected to the needs of all learners

**Course Description:** 7th grade science is an integrated science class. The major units are:

- The Characteristics of Living Things
- How Living Things Survive and Grow
- Body Systems
- Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Weather, Climate, and Water Cycling
- Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Throughout the year there will be an emphasis on these **science practices** laid out by the new Michigan Science Standards:

1. Asking questions and defining problems
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data
5. Using mathematics and computational thinking
6. Constructing explanations and designing solutions
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

**Class Materials:** The materials required for class every day are:

- Pencils/Eraser
- Pencil lead or pencil sharpener
- One pocket folder with prongs or a science section within a larger binder.
- Science Notebook (composition notebook-not a spiral notebook)
- Scarlett Planner
- *Optional materials:* headphones, highlighter, pens, colored pencils, scissors, glue, calculator

*During class we will frequently utilize microscopes, technology resources, and lab materials. Given our inquiries into biology, we will also be working with several living organisms in class this year. You will be instructed on proper use of equipment and materials. If you do not handle equipment or organisms as instructed, you will not be permitted to participate in those activities.*

**Standards Based Grading** - Grades in this class will be standards-based. This means that your final grade will show how completely you understand our learning targets (standards). **ONLY summative assessments** will count toward your final grade. This means that your final grade for each term will only be made up of a few assessments; all other work is practice (formative). While the scores on this practice work will not impact your grade directly, many of these formative assignments will still be recorded in PowerSchool for you to view and monitor your progress. It is very important to complete all practice work in order to be prepared for summative assessments.

| Formative (practice work)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Summative                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Bell work</li><li>● Classwork</li><li>● Homework</li><li>● Quizzes</li><li>● Can be redone anytime to improve understanding</li><li>● Measured on a 1-8 scale</li><li>● <b>NOT</b> included in final grade in PowerSchool (but many are recorded for parents/students to view)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Tests</li><li>● Final projects</li><li>● Lab Reports</li><li>● Can be redone to show improvement following class redo procedures (see below)</li><li>● Measures understanding of the learning target on a 1-8 scale. Reported in powerschool with a percentage score (see scale below)</li><li>● <b>Makes up final grade in PowerSchool</b></li></ul> |

**Learning Targets** - Learning targets are “*I can...*” statements that tell you what you need to know and be able to do. Learning targets come from our state science standards as well as the ATLs (Approaches to Learning) skills that are described by the IB. Each day you will see the learning targets on the board. Learning targets for the entire unit will be posted in the classroom and you will regularly self-assess your own understanding of the learning targets.

**Extra credit** - No extra credit is offered in a standards-based grading system.

**Absent work** - It is essential to make up any work you miss while you are absent, otherwise you will miss important opportunities to learn concepts that were covered while you were gone and practice the skills you need to meet the learning targets. It is your responsibility to follow classroom procedures to get what you missed.

**MYP ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL SCORE:** As an authorized IB World School, students will also receive an MYP Achievement Level score determined by performance in 4 MYP Objectives. These objectives are scored using a MYP rubric with a rating scale of 0-8. This scale has been converted to a traditional grade using the conversion chart below.

| IB Score | Percent in Powerschool |
|----------|------------------------|
| 8        | 100                    |
| 7        | 93                     |
| 6        | 88                     |
| 5        | 83                     |
| 4        | 78                     |
| 3        | 73                     |
| 2        | 60                     |
| 1        | 50                     |
| 0        | Below a 50             |

**GRADING SCALE:**

A: 100-90  
 B: 89-80  
 C: 79-70  
 D: 60-69  
 E: 59 and below

**Assessment criteria-**Your final grade will consist of your performance on the following IB criterion summative assessments:

- **Criterion A: Knowing and understanding-**Students develop scientific knowledge (facts, ideas, concepts, processes, laws, principles, models and theories) and apply it to solve problems and express scientifically supported judgments.
- **Criterion B: Inquiring and designing-**Students develop intellectual and practical skills through designing, analyzing and performing scientific investigations.
- **Criterion C: Processing and evaluating-**Students collect, process and interpret qualitative and/or quantitative data, and explain conclusions that have been appropriately reached.
- **Criterion D: Reflecting on the impacts of science-**Students evaluate the implications of scientific developments and their applications to a specific problem or issue. Varied scientific language is applied to demonstrate understanding. Students should become aware of the importance of documenting the work of others when communicating in science.

**Homework will consist of:**

- Practice of skills and content
- Reviewing and preparing for summative assessments
- Completing lab reports and/or projects
- Completing daily work if not finished in class

**Late Work and Retakes** - It is important to complete all work when it is due in order to keep up with activities in class. Summative assessments that are turned in more than 2 weeks after the due date will receive a 0 score. In order to receive credit for the assessment, you must go through the procedures for redoing the assessment.

You may redo any assignment to improve your final grade. Formative assessments (homework, classwork, quizzes) can be redone without any additional work. Summative assessments will require you to complete a redo ticket and meet all requirements listed on that ticket. We will go over this ticket in class. **Redoing an assessment will require extra work on your part; do your best the first time.**

**Redoing Summative Assessments-** You may redo any summative assessment to improve your final grade.

- Redo must be arranged within 2 weeks of receiving the original assessment's score.
- The time and date must be scheduled with the teacher.
- No redos the last week of the term.
- Redo may be in a different form from the original assessment.
- You must have redo ticket completed/approved before retrying an assessment
- You must complete additional work to improve your understanding

**Citizenship-** Students will regularly self-assess their citizenship and "formative" citizenship scores will be recorded in powerschool. Summative citizenship scores will be entered into powerschool by mid-term and regularly updated. You will be marked down in citizenship if you regularly do not bring your supplies to class or you do not actively participate in classroom activities. ***Scarlett Citizenship Expectations- "Student is respectful, responsible, has a positive approach to learning, treats others with kindness, and strives to do his/her best."*** (See student handbook for full rubric.)

| Description      | Rubric Score | <b><u>Extra Help-</u></b> If you are behind because of absences, want extra help, wish to redo assignments, or have other questions, we are often available during lunch to meet with students. You must speak to with your teacher at least one day ahead of time to arrange to come in. You can also find additional resources on Google Classroom.<br><br><b><i>When in doubt, ask! We are always happy to answer questions. Our job is to help you succeed and we promise that we will do whatever we can to make that happen.</i></b> |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Always           | 4            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Most of the Time | 3            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Sometimes        | 2            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Rarely           | 1            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Never            | 0            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

# Sign & Return

Please sign this form (keep the rest of the syllabus) in agreement of the policies outlined in the seventh grade science syllabus. The form needs to be returned by Wednesday, September 18th. If you have questions or concerns regarding the upcoming school year, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to a wonderful year of learning!

I have read and understand the expectations for **myself** in seventh grade science this year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class period

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

I have read and understand the expectations for **my child** in seventh grade science this year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed parent/guardian name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to student

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

Does your Scarlett student have reliable access to the internet to complete digital work outside of school?

☐ Yes, my child has reliable internet access outside of school

☐ No, my child does not have reliable internet access outside of school

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## **Optional: Parent/Guardian information to the teacher**

What are the best ways/times to contact you regarding your child?

What information might be important for me to know to help your child be successful this year?

What is one hope that you have for your child in science class this year?

Other notes: