



7th Grade Life Science

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

At FAST, students are active learners who engage with content to discover and explain natural phenomena. They understand that science is a process for gaining knowledge about the natural world and are able to design and conduct experiments. Students are able to report their findings in the form of written reports, tables, graphs, and various other presentations including multimedia projects. Their scientific explanations emphasize evidence and exemplify the use of scientific principles, models, and theories. FAST integrates project based learning into our current curriculum.

Importantly, seventh graders continue to develop -AS PER OUR MISSION STATEMENT- the practice of thinking like scientists. They evaluate written or other data and learn to assess whether scientific information is real or fake science. They develop the ability to think critically and to search for valid information in reference books, magazines, science journals, newspapers, and computer databases. As AI use increases in our classrooms, our students are learning how to create prompts with pertinent and content rich questions as well as how to use AI honestly and appropriately.

STANDARDS AND DATA DRIVEN IMPLEMENTATION

At FAST, Georgia and national standards are used to align, expand, and implement curriculum to ensure that students achieve mastery in prioritized areas of study. We aim to meet identified -data based- academic needs, abilities, readiness, interests, and learning profiles of our 7th grade students.

CURRICULAR RESOURCES

Next Generation Science Standards

Georgia Standards for Excellence in Science

Additional resources as needed (material will be attached or linked in Google Classroom)

Class Materials

- 1 three ring binder OR 1 notebook plus 1 folder
- Loose leaf paper (college ruled and three-hole punched)
- Dividers (if using a 3 ring binder)
- 1 lined composition notebook for lab
- Pencil and pen

POLICIES

Grading Scale/Policy:

Grades at FAST reflect knowledge, skills, application, progress, effort, participation, and preparation.

Quarterly & semester grades will be calculated using the following guidelines:

- 50% – Major Category/ Summative Assessments: Tests, Projects, Lab Reports
- 40% – Minor Category/Formative Assessments: Quizzes, Skill-checks (correctible), Lab Performance, Class Performance and/or Participation.
- 10% – Practice Category: Classwork, Homework, Notes

Letter/Numeric Equivalence

A 90 – 100
 B 80 – 89
 C 70 – 79
 F 69 and below

Instructional Policies:

Driven by our mission, Fulton Academy of Science and Technology classrooms are deeply rooted in project based learning, inquiry, and innovation. Please be advised that classwork and homework may be assigned at the discretion of the teacher on weeknights and/or weekends in order to enhance learning opportunities.

Ms. Londoño's Late Work Policy

All students are expected to complete assignments and turn work in at the beginning of class on the due date. A 10% minimum deduction per day will be calculated before the late work is graded. Work that is turned 3 or more days late may receive a grade of no more than 70% for excellent work. Late work will be accepted up until the end of the quarter during which it was assigned.

Ms. Londoño's Absent to School/Make Up Policy

Missing school does not eliminate a student's classroom and assignment responsibilities. Students will have the same number of days they missed school to make-up their assignments. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to check teacher web pages and collect missed assignments. Long term absences should be communicated to the student's teachers, and assignments given prior to a long term absence will result in the assignment being due on the original due date or the first day back to school for the student.

Ms. Londoño's No Zero Policy

A student missing an assignment will not be given a zero, but will be required to make up the missing work within a reasonable amount of time (see the make up policy) The minimum grade given for work that is not completed is 50%.

Ms. Londoño's A 50 In the Gradebook

If a 50 is placed as a grade in the gradebook it means that the student is missing that assignment. It is a reminder to the student that he or she must complete their work. This grade may be changed once the assignment is turned in.

LIFE SCIENCE COURSE CONTENT

**please note, that the scope and sequence of this guide is subject to change to comply with changes in national or state science standards*

August	Unit 0: What is Science? Physical Quantities, Measurements and Units The basis of Science Methods: Observations, Questions, Hypotheses Science Vs. Pseudoscience Thinking Critically
September	Unit 1: Diversity of Life Characteristics of Life Hierarchy of Life Classification of Life (Dichotomous Keys) Unit 2: The Structure of Water Biological Macromolecules
October	Unit 3 Viruses The Cell- Prokaryotic and Eukaryotic Cell Structure and Function Unit 4: The Cell Cycle and Mitosis DNA: Chromatin, Chromosomes, DNA (Project: Watson, Crick and Franklin)
November	Unit 5: Cellular Organization: Tissues Organ Systems: Digestive, Circulatory, Respiratory and Immune Systems
December	Unit 6: Mendelian Genetics Mendelian Genetics Project
January	Unit 7: Natural Selection Evolution Populations Natural Selection as a Mechanism of Evolution
February	Unit 8 Evidence of Evolution
March	Unit 9 Ecology: Populations, Communities, Ecosystems and Biomes Food Webs and Food Chains
April	Unit 10 Energy: Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration
May	Dissections FINAL Exam

**FAST
MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE**

Ms. Londoño

Class:

Period:

Name:

Date:

Formative Assessment: What Does Your Class Syllabus Tell You?

T or F

- _____ 1. I will gain knowledge about the natural world and will conduct experiments
- _____ 2. I will seek evidence to support my scientific explanations
- _____ 3. I will keep records of investigations
- _____ 4. I will practice thinking like a scientist
- _____ 5. I will believe everything I read online

Short Answers (*write at least one complete sentence for each question*).

1. Which textbook will you be using? (see your syllabus for this question)
2. What are the main topics or units you will cover (name only 8)?
3. Which of these topics is the most interesting to you?
4. Are you required to keep a separate lab notebook?
5. What is Ms. Londono's late work policy at FAST?
6. If you see a 50 in the gradebook, what does that mean?
7. Which of the assessments are correctible for half of the points?
8. List 5 good habits that science students display:

I will seek my homeroom teacher's help if:

- ☐ I don't understand Google Classroom.
- ☐ I do not understand where to find assignments



Syllabus Acknowledgement and Pledge:

I, _____, have read and understood the requirements listed in this syllabus. I pledge to satisfactorily complete the academic work required in this syllabus in order to successfully pass this course. I understand that Ms. Londoño or my current teacher will provide instruction and resources to ensure my success, and that I must also commit to giving my full attention and effort into the class.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to stay on top of my assignments and to ensure they are completed on time. In the event that assignments are missing or incomplete, I am aware of the grade penalties and required lunch-and-learns and other makeup sessions associated with ensuring assignments are completed so that Ms. Londoño can appropriately assess my learning on specific topics and standards.

Student Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____