



Grade 7 Science Syllabus

Mrs. Mazalewski and Mrs. Hagerty

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The mission of Our Lady of Grace Catholic School is to form Christ-centered disciples, grounded in faith and knowledge, to become servant leaders. The mission of OLG 7th grade Physical Science instruction is to spark curiosity and build a solid foundation in physical science and chemistry by exploring the fundamental principles that govern matter, its properties and states at a micro- and macroscopic level, and resulting energy. Additionally, students will analyze the impacts of the distribution of Earth's natural resources and how responsible environmental stewardship contributes to a sustainable future. By fostering curiosity and critical thinking, OLG 7th grade Science class prepares students to ask meaningful questions and approach challenges with a scientific mindset.

COURSE OUTCOME:

- **Course Objective/Description:**
 - Through inquiry-based learning, hands-on activities, collaborative experimentation, and real-world applications, students will be empowered to understand matter and energy as well as understand the importance of natural resources in sustaining life on Earth.
- **Curriculum:**
 - Physical Science 7 follows the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
 - Physical Science 7 utilizes the Discovery Education Platform's California Science Techbook as well as supplementary information and science/engineering lab and activity worksheets vetted and selected by the Physical Science 7 teacher to provide a blend of learning on paper with technology. Students will be provided with online access to the Discovery Education Platform.
- **Science 7 Teaching Staff:**
 - Mrs. Mazalewski - 5th, 6th, and 7th Science Teacher
 - Mrs. Hagerty – 7th and 8th Grade Science Teacher
 - Guest speakers to present specific science/engineering concepts throughout the academic year.

INSTRUCTION:

- **Materials Needed:**
 - Chromebook (provided by OLG School)
 - Science Graphing Notebook
 - Pencils
 - Blue or black ink pens
 - Red ink pens

- **Physical Science 7 Concepts Sequentially Taught:**

- Classroom Lab Safety Procedures, Scientific Tools for Measurement, and Policies
- Introduction to Earth Science
- Minerals of Earth's Crust
- Energy Resources
- Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes
- The Flow of Fresh Water
- Agents of Erosion and Deposition
- History of Earth/Evolution
- Interactions of Living Things/Classification
- Heredity
- Properties of Matter: Solids, Liquids, and Gases
- Introduction to Atoms, Elements, and Chemical Reactions

ASSESSMENT:

- **Competencies:**

- This curriculum is developed for on-grade level 7th grade students.

- **Grading Policy:**

- Students will be required to participate in a variety of class activities. Some of these will be assessed for basic student understanding in order to direct instruction and will not have a direct impact on report card grades. Other activities will be used as an artifact in a body of evidence to determine student proficiency on a specific learning goal.
- Assessment is based upon the following categories of demonstrated proficiency/work:
 - Assessments/Quizzes (typically announced in advance)
 - Classwork to include science labs and activities
 - Science/Engineering Project
 - Collaborative participation in group or partner science/engineering activities and Technology-based assignments
- Assessment scores are based upon Standard Referenced Grading (SRG) levels:
 - 4.0 – Exceeding the Standard (Student demonstrates understanding beyond the standard without any assistance and without errors).
 - 3.0 – Meeting the Standard (Student demonstrates understanding of target content, with little or no assistance and minimal errors).
 - 2.0 – Progressing toward the Standard (Student demonstrates some basic knowledge or skills necessary for meeting the target content).
 - 1.0 – Beginning to Develop the Standard (Student needs help or assistance to have partial success with target content).

- **Course Calendar/Schedule:**

- There are three academic terms. For each term, students will receive a mid-term progress report with assessed scores as well as final term report cards.
- **Assignments:**
 - **Classwork** will typically consist of teacher-led concept introduction and teacher-guided hands-on labs and exploration activities. Students will then use class time to take relevant notes and apply knowledge during labs/activities to demonstrate mastery of unit concepts and scientific methodology.
 - **Science Notebooks:** Students will be directed to use their Science Notebooks to capture notes (by science topic) presented by the teacher
 - **Labs/Activities:** Students will be provided Lab worksheets with guided procedural steps to perform scientific exploration by formulating a hypothesis, completing experiment steps, observing/recording results, analyzing data to state evidence-based conclusions.
 - **Homework** may be assigned to supplement classwork and reinforce in-class learning.

TEACHER COMMUNICATION:

- Ways in which I communicate with the students and parents are as follows:
 - **For Students:**
 - Science 7 Google Classroom (Code: [e3fgzhd4](#)) – for class assignments and announcements
 - 7th Grade Homework Hotline
 - **For Parents:**
 - Individual email, as needed
 - Parents may contact me via email to ask for clarifications or to schedule a parent/teacher conference, as needed.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS:

- All students will comply with the Our Lady of Grace S.O.A.R. expectations for successful learning and behavior. Persistent or blatant non-compliance will result in immediate notification to school administration for appropriate follow-up with student and parents.
- Class participation – Students should participate actively in class by completing science unit worksheets, taking and reviewing class notes, and completing science labs/activities and lab record write-ups (either individually or working with partners) as well as work cooperatively in groups with their peers.
- Additional Science 7 Honor Code:
 - Each student will work to his/her full potential.
 - Each student will treat all members of the class with respect.
 - Each student will be honest and be responsible for the integrity of his/her actions.

- Consequences for Academic Dishonesty/Cheating: A student found cheating or aiding in cheating will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and the teacher will contact the parent.

MAKE-UP/LATE WORK POLICY:

- For absences: Per OLG Jr High policy, it is the student's responsibility to coordinate with the teacher to get/complete missed classwork, homework, and assessment/quiz by an agreed-to-date.

Acknowledgement: Please sign this document to acknowledge that you have read and agree to all terms in the syllabus.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____