

7th Grade Science

August 2025

Course Description -

Welcome to 7th grade science! The 7th grade science curriculum utilizes the OpenSciEd curriculum. It is real-world, phenomena-based and designed to center on student-led questioning, investigation and problem solving. Throughout the year we will integrate Earth, Life and Physical Sciences into our units. The goal is to develop eager, curious minds which will help students be excited about science (and other topics) now and in the future!



Units -

- Light and Matter: Why do we sometimes see different things when looking at the same object?
- Sound Waves: How can a sound make something move?
- Chemical Reactions and Energy: How can we use chemical reactions to design a solution to a problem?
- Cells and Systems: How do living things heal?
- Metabolic Reactions: How do things inside our bodies work together to make us feel the way we do?
- Matter Cycling and Photosynthesis: Where does food come from and where does it go next?

About the Teacher -

Hello! I am Mrs. Evelyn Gray, the 7th Grade Science Teacher for the Blue Team. This will be my 12th year at DeWitt Public Schools. I graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in interdepartmental biology, an integrated science endorsement and a master's degree in teaching and curriculum. I live in DeWitt with my husband, two sons (17 years and 10 years) and daughter (8 years). In my free time I enjoy reading, running, and playing volleyball. While these are my hobbies it is my family that takes up most of my time! I am looking forward to helping all of my students have a successful year.

Website -

Google Classroom is going to be the hub for all electronic materials. The materials will be organized by week. Each week, a Daily Agenda slideshow and a Progress Tracker will be posted and a variety of items to be used throughout the week. The Daily Agenda slideshow will include our science starter, daily learning targets and activities for the day. The Progress Tracker will be updated every few days (at the end of each "lesson") and will include a summary of the big ideas we have learned. Many aspects of the lesson will be available via Google Classroom (including presentations, video links and Google Forms). While Google Classroom offers access to many resources it is not a replacement for being in class and when a student is absent, they will need to see the teacher to collect other materials they may have missed.

Absent Work -

If you are absent from class, make-up work is your responsibility. When you have been absent, be sure to check the daily agenda (linked in Google Classroom) and ask your teacher for any work that is to be made up. Whenever possible, assignments will be posted in Google Classroom. However, many of our activities are done in class and therefore it will be imperative that students speak with the teacher to ensure they know what they have missed. You are allowed one class period for every period missed to make up work. Remember, seminar is a great opportunity to meet with the teacher for information.

Grading -

Grades will be recorded in Infinite Campus and will be weighted as follows:

- Graded for Understanding: 90%
 - Tests
 - Quizzes
 - Assignments
- Graded for Completion: 10% (These assignments are designed to give students an opportunity to gain the knowledge they need for the graded for understanding assessments.)
 - Classwork where students are in the process of learning the information
 - Some work in which students are recording data
 - Other assignments in which the effort is needed, but they are not yet expected to have mastered the content

Missing Work - Missing work (including homework, in-class work, quizzes and tests) needs to be made up in a timely manner. Quizzes and tests should be made up within a week of the end of the unit unless there are extenuating circumstances and arrangements have been made with the teacher. Missing homework and in-class work must be made up by the end of the unit during which it was assigned.

Assessment Retake Policy -

Students may retake tests and quizzes. In order to do so, they will need to complete the retake request form. The retake request form will require students to turn in their quiz/test review and any missing work from the unit. Additionally, students will need to schedule a review session with their teacher and provide evidence that they have put additional time into preparing for the retake.

Required Class Materials (everyday)

- Pencil
- Science Notebook (3-Ring Binder) that includes the following.
 - Handouts
 - Blank notebook paper
 - Lab notes and data
 - Student work

Classroom Rules (ROAR) -

R - Respect (Our classroom is a safe space to share.)

- We provide each other with support and encouragement.
- We share our time to talk. We do this by giving others time to think and share.
- We critique the ideas we are working with but not the people we are working with.
- We recognize and value that people think, share, and represent their ideas in different ways.

O - Own It (You are responsible for your actions.)

- We monitor our own time spent talking.
- We are open to changing our minds.

A - Act Responsibly (The choices made contribute positively to our community of learners.)

- We come prepared to work toward a common goal.
- We share our own thinking to help us all learn.
- We listen carefully and ask questions to help us understand everyone's ideas.
- We speak clearly and loud enough so everyone can hear.

R - Reach for Excellence (When possible take the extra step.)

- We encourage others' voices who we have not heard from yet.
- We use and build on others' ideas.
- We use evidence to support our ideas, ask for evidence from others, and suggest ways to get additional evidence.
- We challenge ourselves to think in new ways.

My Contact Information

If you, or your parents, have any questions or concerns about your progress in this class at any point throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached through email (grayeve@dewittschools.net) or by phone at (517) 668-3270.

I will be available during seminar, before school, and after school for students to come in and get extra help if needed. Students should definitely take advantage of these opportunities. I love to see extra initiative from students. I am looking forward to working with and getting to know all of you.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Evelyn Gray