



J.L. Mann

Integrated Science Course Expectations

2025-2026

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Office Hours:

I will be available Wednesday mornings from 7:30 am to 8:30 am in the commons for make-up work and questions. If another day can be agreed upon, you will receive a pass for travel through the academic hallway (this must be pre-planned and agreed upon by email).

Course Description

The purpose of this basic level science course is to allow the students to discover and work with the relationships that are fundamental to science through hands-on instruction. The lab experience will provide opportunities to master concepts, use problem-solving skills, and to apply those skills to real-world situations. Topics studied will include lab safety, science and engineering practices, structure and processes, ecosystems, DNA, heredity, and biological evolution.

Instructional Philosophy

This 90 minute class is structured to maximize the learning experience for students by using a mix of activities to increase interest and diversify instruction. These activities include, but are not limited to, cooperative learning, project-based learning, lab exercise, inquiry experiments, student-led instruction, and teacher-led instruction. All students are required to participate in all activities and lab exercises. Students' individual strengths and weaknesses will be considered to optimize learning. Technology will be utilized, when applicable, to increase student achievement and enhance learning.

Course Goals

These standards are based on the South Carolina Science Performance Indicators to assist in the transition to Biology. This course focuses on science skills, reading comprehension, stamina of high school science expectations, and biology content.

Course Pacing Guide

The course-pacing guide is arranged for block schedule (semester-long) pacing. These classes meet daily for a 90-minute class period.

Unit	Unit Name	Estimated timing
	Lab Safety	1 week
	Science & Engineering Practices	2 weeks
1	Structures & Processes	4 weeks
2	Ecosystems	3 weeks
3	DNA & Heredity	3 weeks
4	Biological Evolution	4 weeks

	Final Exam	Week 18
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Materials

Required materials: composition notebook, colored pencils, pencils, glue sticks

The following materials will be used frequently throughout the semester and are suggested

- Pens (Black or Blue)
- Highlighter
- Earbuds that can be paired with chromebook
- small personal sharpener if desired

Science Based Expectations

1. Hall Passes must be properly issued to leave the classroom. We utilize the Smart Pass System for all to/from except during class changes. Passes will not be granted during the first 15 minutes of class nor the last 15 minutes of class for most circumstances. I reserve the right to deny a student's pass until an appropriate time during the class. If passes are abused administration will be referred to.
2. Academic Integrity- All students involved in copying, plagiarizing, or cheating of any kind will receive a zero on the assignment and a referral to administration. In addition, students may face additional consequences based on the severity of the incident. (see handbook)
3. Absolutely no horseplay will be tolerated in the classroom or lab in Science Classes. You will receive a zero for the assignment and possibly removal from the classroom or lab setting depending on the severity. You will not receive an alternative assignment to replace the grade you choose to lose by such actions. Respect spaces, items, and other people.
4. No cellphones out at any time, this is a state policy and is strictly enforced.

Grading Expectations

Chromebook: You should be charging your Chromebook nightly to be prepared for the next school day. Charging at school is limited by tower as we are teaching our students to be responsible for the tools they need to complete their jobs. It is highly recommended to leave chargers at home to prevent misplacing.

The use of Chromebook for nonacademic purposes during class may result in a detention, referral or suspension depending on the severity of the infraction. GoGuardian is maintained for your time in class.

Grading:

Letter grades will be determined on the following scale:

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	below 60%

Grading Procedures

Quarter 1- 45%

Quarter 2- 45%

Exam- 10% of final grade (multiple choice/practical exam covering all content from the semester.)

Minor Assessments (40%)

Participation/Daily Assignments/ Homework

Pre-tests/ Quizzes

Bell Ringers: this is a daily question the students receive upon entering the classroom each day.

Note: Late assignments will be accepted with a 10% deduction each day up to 50%.

Major Assessments (60%)

I utilize a point system for all work completed in my classroom. This helps students understand how they will be graded when they go to college and ensures that assignments that take more effort are worth more of a student's overall grade. All grades can easily be converted to a percentage by dividing the number of points received by total points and multiplying by 100. Ex. $120/135=0.889*100=89\%$

Content Assessment

Tests are announced well in advance, students will have plenty of time to prepare. Tests consist of multiple-choice, short answer, problems, lab questions, and/or discussion. If a student misses the day before the test, they will take the test with the class. If a student is out the day of the test, they will take the test the day they return. If a student is out consecutive days, it is the student's responsibility to schedule a time to make-up the exam.

- Homework will consist of any assignment not completed in class.
- Students are expected to demonstrate correct spelling, grammar and neatness when submitting any final assignment.
- Participation points include the daily question, cleaning up of materials used in class, participation in daily activities, inclusion in group assignments, and appropriate behavior toward classmates and staff.
- Extra credit policy and procedures are handed out on an academic basis once a quarter, in the form of an inquiry the student completes on their own time.
- Grades will be posted online to allow students an opportunity to check their progress in class. Recommended that parents have access as well, but recommended a weekly email to check progress. This allows students/teachers to fix any issues prior to parental involvement (Portal).

Notebooks:

Notebook Checks-all daily assignments are combined for a cumulative grade and checked for accuracy.

-Some assignments will be collected separately for a grade and students will be notified when the assignment is given.

*Note taking: Students are required to hand write their notes (unless accommodations are listed in a 504/IEP). Credit will **NOT** be given for notes that have been typed/printed. Research shows that students understand the content better if they write it down. Notes should be taken prior to the day they are reviewed in class.

Labs: An opportunity for students to demonstrate a knowledge of covered topics, gain a better understanding of information, and receive practical application in the scientific field. Lab Grade is based on participation, accuracy, and completion of assignments. Safety procedures must be followed at all times. Any student that does not meet the expectations outlined in the safety contract will receive a deduction of points. This includes but is not limited to accuracy of lab practices and reports, participation and clean up. (10 per infraction or a zero for the lab depending on severity). If a student misses a lab day they may be required to complete an alternate assignment in place of the lab related to the same content

Cumulative Projects:

Large projects will be assigned multiple times throughout the semester. Multiple formats will be used to ensure students are receiving a variety of projects. Independent and group assignments will be utilized throughout the semester.

*In order to ensure that group projects are graded effectively students will take the number of points earned from completion of the project and divide points amongst the members. This will ensure that the students that work hard receive a fair grade.

Make-Up Work Policy

If absent, assignments due prior to absence should be submitted via email or classroom, unless alternate plans have been made with the instructor.

All students are responsible for getting their own make-up work.

Late Work Policy

Any assignment turned in must be accessible to the instructor. If an assignment needs to be resubmitted then it will be counted as late.

Classroom Participation:

Classroom Participation is an integral part of the students overall grade. Participation includes but is not limited to participation in laboratories, oral discussions and group projects. Evaluation is based upon individual participation, group participation, and teacher assessment.

Points will be deducted for off task behaviors; such as playing games on Chromebooks, off task drawing, etc.

Movies/Documentaries:

Movies with a rating G, PG, and PG 13 may be shown in class that are related to the current topic of study.

*By signing the permission slip at the beginning of the semester it is at your discretion if your student is permitted to watch the full length movies and/or documentaries shown in class. If you choose to have your student not watch the movie, they will receive an alternate assignment that is still related to the information covered in the movie. Students will not lose points for opting out of the movie.

Ethics & Issues:

Students will use case study scenarios to gain an awareness of science as a human enterprise that is conducted in a social context, while learning to identify the facts of each case.

Substitute Expectations

Substitute teachers are guests in the classroom. Students are expected to be respectful and cooperative. Students who are disrespectful and/or uncooperative with a substitute teacher should expect an automatic referral. When I am out you represent more than just yourself, you represent me. I demand the best version of you. I will not tolerate you acting less than your value. You will always have an assignment and it will always be graded. :)

E-Learning Expectations

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| → Be prepared and log in on time. | → Use headphones if you have them |
| → Find a quiet place to work in and be mindful of what is in your background. | → Wear appropriate clothing. |
| → Mute yourself when you join the meeting. | → Actively participate in the meeting |
| → Try to minimize your distractions. | → Raise your hand or wave to speak. |
| → Don't stress about an occasional interruption by a pet, parent, or sibling. | → Type questions in the chat box. |
| → Charge your chromebook! | → Stay on topic. |
| → While you are not required to be on camera, it is imperative that you participate in class. | → Be kind and considerate to your teachers and classmates |
| | → Be courteous when others are speaking. |

MagicSchool AI Tools for Students

This year, students will have access to MagicSchool AI, a generative AI platform built for schools that will help them learn to use the technology safely and responsibly.

With tools like ChatGPT and others being used in the professional world, it's important that students learn how to use the technology safely. By using MagicSchool in our classes, your student(s) will be prepared for the future of technology in the workforce.

While students use MagicSchool tools for purposes such as receiving real time feedback, getting their questions answered, generating images, and in other exciting ways, I will have access to their chats to ensure that it's used appropriately. Rest assured, MagicSchool does not collect or train on student data.

Be sure to ask your child about how they're using AI in the classroom and take a look at the engaging ways they've utilized the MagicSchool tools to enhance their learning!

For more information, go to www.magicschool.ai or reach out directly with questions.