

Seventh Grade Life Science Policies and Procedures 2011 - 2012

Introduction: The Green Acres Middle School seventh grade science program is a hands-on, minds-on course where you will poke, probe, handle, observe, think up experimental questions and test them, make conclusions, sometimes make mistakes, and revise.

Course Description: Life Science is the study of living things. In this course we will study the scientific investigation process, measurement, anatomy and physiology of living things, how living things change on Earth over time, and much more. All lessons, tasks, and assessments are aligned to the California Content Standards for Seventh Grade Science.

Textbook and Materials: The books/materials listed here will support student learning.

- Required Texts and Readings - Prentice Hall: Focus on Life Science. Text books are available for checkout from your science teacher. The text book is also available on-line at www.pearsonsuccessnet.com. You will need a code to register for the on-line text book.
- Supplemental Resources/Materials - Students will need to arrive in class each day with the materials needed for the day's work. Materials include paper, pencils, pens, their class calendar, science journal, colored pencils, a simple calculator, and a ruler.

Behavior, Attendance, and Work Ethic: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and be ready, willing, and able to work to the best of their ability during each class period. It is a class expectation that students be prompt, prepared, responsible, and respectful. All school rules as stated in the *Visalia Unified School District Conduct Code* are enforced.

Grading Policy: Students must achieve a rubric score of 3 or higher on assessments to meet grade level standards. Proficiency is based on mastery of the content standards.



Individual Assessment and Class work Grades

Rubric Score	Description
4 ☺	Advanced - Student communicated/demonstrated clear and complete understanding of the concept, skill, or standard.
3 ☺	Proficient - Student communicated/demonstrated the expected level of understanding of the concept, skill, or standard.
2 ☹	Basic - Student is approaching understanding of concept, skill, or standard. <i>This is not a passing grade.</i>
1 ☹	Below Basic - Student does not understand the concept, skill, or standard. <i>This is not a passing grade</i>

The Grade: Grades will be based on assessments. Assessments can include lab performances, quizzes, essays, and projects. A four-point rubric will be used to evaluate the proficiency level for each standard. Scores of 3 or 4 are proficient. (Passing) A score of 2 is approaching proficiency and grade level for the given standard. (Not passing) A score of 1 shows that the student does not understand the standard. (Not passing) Students will have multiple opportunities to reach proficiency on each standard.

Class proficiency will be calculated based on the average rubric score of the assessed standards. Progress Report and Semester grades will be assigned as follows:

Avg. Score	Proficiency	Description
4.0 - 3.7	Advanced <i>(Passing)</i>	Exceeds grade level standards. (Score of 92.5% or better)
3.6 - 3.0	Proficient <i>(Passing)</i>	Meets grade level standards. (Score of 75%-92.5%)
2.9 - 2.0	Basic <i>(Not passing)</i>	Approaching grade level standards. (Score of 50%-74%) <i>(Student must retake some assessments to bring up grade)</i>
Below 2.0	Below Basic <i>(Failing)</i>	Does not meet grade level standard; (Score less than 57%) <i>(Student must retake some assessments to bring up grade)</i>
IE or 0	Insufficient evidence to evaluate student. Student did not take assessment. Students must complete 80% of the assessments to receive a grade. (Failing)	
Blank	Standard not assessed during this grading period.	

- **Quality of Work:** Student work is expected to be complete, proficient, and on time. Incomplete assignments will not be accepted. Assignments turned in late will receive a maximum of a 3.

- **Homework:** Homework will be assigned most of the time. Please look over your child's homework daily to ensure it has been completed.

Parent Contact: Keeping the lines of communication open between parents, teachers, and students are extremely important. E-mail is the preferred method of communication as it is direct, quick, and easy. Parents are welcome to call or e-mail at any time. If you do not have email, a phone call is also welcome.

* If you have an email address, please send me an email, ASAP, identifying yourself and your child along with the period they are in science. This will be very helpful for me.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I am available almost every day after school.

Mr. Lucas - email: blucas@vusd.org

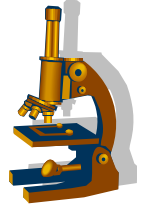
Website: <http://mrlucas.com>





Seventh Grade Life Science

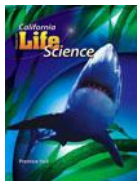
2011 - 2012



I have read and understand the grading policies for the Seventh Grade Life Science class.

_____	_____
Student Name (print)	Parent Name (print)
_____	_____
Student Signature	Parent Signature
_____	_____
Date	Class Period

Parent/Guardian 1	Parent/Guardian 2
_____	_____
Parent Name (print)	Parent Name (print)
_____	_____
Parent Email Address	Parent Email Address
_____	_____
Parent Home Phone Number	Parent Home Phone Number
_____	_____
Parent Cell Phone Number	Parent Cell Phone Number



Yes, we will be using the on-line textbook.

Additional Information or Comments: _____

Please return this paper by Tuesday, August 23.

