WELCOME TO 7th Grade Science

Syllabus 2015-2016

INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Luoto
ROOM: 102
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School Phone: (906) 477-6313 ext.102
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course students will build upon knowledge and skills learned in other science courses and build a foundation for more advanced courses in Earth, Physical and Life Science. This is a hands-on course that will incorporate inquiry, traditional classroom activities and technology. In addition students will be introduced to science and engineering practices, lab safety, laboratory equipment and standard lab procedures.

CLASS GOAL
The goal is for each student to master the 7th grade state of Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) for Science and begin practicing the Next Generation Science Standards Science and Engineering Practices.

CURRICULUM
Course materials, learning activities and assessments will be aligned to the Michigan GLCEs for Science. The EUPISD 7th grade science curriculum and Battle Creek Science kits will be the curriculum foundation.

Battle Creek Science Units

Energy Effects – 7PS1
The exploration into energy continues with investigations into the effects of light energy and solar energy. Students gain a greater understanding of the sun’s warming and lighting of the Earth, and apply their knowledge to the process of photosynthesis. They investigate energy transfer through waves and the interaction with matter.

Weather, Climate, and Me – 7ES
Weather, Climate, and Me provides a means for students to apply their understanding of solar energy to phenomena they observe, hear, and read about. They explore the relationship between solar warming and the water cycle, warming of the atmosphere, land, and oceans, and the effect on weather and climate. Seventh grade students explain how human activities have changed the land, oceans, and atmosphere and the consequences that humans face today.

Chemical Properties – 7PS2
This unit provides a more in-depth study of physical properties (boiling point, density, and color) and chemical properties (pH, reactivity, and flammability). Students draw on their knowledge of properties and use evidence to describe physical and chemical change. Seventh grade students are introduced to the Periodic Table of the Elements as they explore compounds and elements.
Cells, Cell Division, and Photosynthesis –7LS
This unit takes a microscopic look at how organisms function, grow, and reproduce. Students’ investigations into living things include the study of cells, how cells make up human body tissues, organs, and organ systems that have specialized functions. They compare the cellular structure and function of plant cells and the process of photosynthesis. Students explore how genetic information is carried from one generation to the next, both asexually and sexually.

The EUPISD science curriculum can be reviewed at http://www.eup.k12.mi.us/page/318.

TEXTBOOK: (Used for Cells, Cell Division and Photosynthesis Unit only)
Prentice Hall, Science Explorer: Life Science

Each unit will also have informational books that correspond to the Battle Creek Science kits.

TECHNOLOGY:
This course integrates technology into instruction and assessments. Students will need to bring their charged laptops and power cord to class EVERY day. Student will use their netbooks to view text, complete assignments, conduct research, complete projects, utilize Web 2.0 tools and to take online assessments. Cell phones are not allowed in the classroom.

MATERIALS
The following materials should be brought to class each day:

- Pencils w/erasers
- Highlighter
- 2” three-ring binder with folder
- Laptop & power cord
- Headphones or ear buds
- Completed assignments
- Filled water bottle (optional)

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT
Students will be given an online unit pre-test before instruction for each unit begins. Student’s scores on the pre-test will not be included in the semester grade. These scores are used to measure student growth. Students will be required to keep select assignments in a 3-ring binder which will be checked for completion periodically. Graded assignments will include weekly Battle Creek Science journal grades, quick assessments, quizzes, tests, labs, and projects.
Note: Some assignments are for practice and will not be part of the student’s grade. Points will be assigned based on the length and type of assignment and semester grades will be cumulative.
Please refer to the Engadine Schools Student Handbook for the grading scale.

Grading Example
Science Journals – 25 pts per week
Quick assessment – 5 pts
Quizzes - 10 pts
Unit Tests – 100 pts
Summative Tests (Quarterly Exams) – 100 pts (each weighted 10% of the semester grade)
Science Journals
Journal entries should be completed neatly in pencil. It is expected that students complete ALL entries. Students should complete unfinished entries at home or during lunch the day the entry was assigned! Journals will be collected and graded on Thursdays most weeks for completed entries made Friday through Thursday (5 pts per entry or 25 pts per week). Students may be asked to complete/revise/redo entries to deepen their understanding.

PARENT COMMUNICATIONS/PROGRESS REPORTS
Progress reports will be given to students every Monday starting the second week of each marking period. Parents/guardians should review the report with their child. Please sign the report each week to indicate that you reviewed it. Signed progress reports that are returned on Tuesday will receive 2 extra credit points. Progress reports turned in from previous weeks or after Tuesday WILL NOT receive extra credit. Students/parents can check student progress daily in Illuminate. Note: It usually takes 24 hours for entered grades to show up in the parent/student portal.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY/MAKE-UP WORK TIME LIMITS
All assignments will have a due date. Assignments and due dates will be posted on the white board.

Students will be allowed one day to make up work for every day of excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to check the “What Did I Miss?” basket and their lab group regarding make-up work.

Students are expected to complete all assignments completely and on time. Late assignments are only accepted at the discretion of the teacher where the student is found to have special extenuating circumstances.

LAB SAFETY AND PROCEDURES
Students must follow all safety rules and procedures or they will be removed from the lab. Students and parents should both read the attached “Flinn Scientific’s Student Safety Contract” and return it to me by the end of the first week of school. Students will not be allowed to participate in lab activities without a signed contract.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES
Classroom and lab procedures will be practiced to ensure student safety and learning. Students will be instructed in behavior expectations using CHAMPS (C – Conversation, H – Help, A- Activity, M – Movement, P – Participation, S – Success) for different classroom activities. A CHAMPS poster will be posted in the classroom.

Tardiness
Students are expected to be in their seats and working on the class starter activity when the bell rings. Students that enter the classroom after the bell, should enter quietly, make an entry in the Tardy Record, quietly take their seat and begin working on the Class Starter. Please refer to the student handbook for the school tardy policy and discipline.

Passes
Students should take care of personal business and fill their water bottles during passing time whenever possible. Students may use a pass only with teacher permission. Students will record their name, destination and time in/out in the record log and return the lanyard to its proper place upon return to the classroom.
Food/Drinks
Students may bring a filled water bottle to class. Note: Eating/drinking/chewing gum during science lab is prohibited due to safety reasons unless the teacher specifically tells students that it is allowed as part of the lab activity.

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS
- Always try
- Do your best
- Ask questions

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS
- Follow CHAMPS
- Arrive on time with all of your materials
- Listen/be silent during teacher instruction
- Stay on task and work from bell to bell
- Use technology appropriately
- Follow all lab safety rules and procedures

CONSEQUENCES for INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR
- Step 1: The student will be given a verbal clue to discontinue the inappropriate behavior and/or will be redirected.
- Step 2: The student will be given a STOP card as a visual reminder to stop the behavior and asked to complete a reflection.
- Step 3: If the behavior continues or the student does not complete the reflection, then the student will earn a referral to the office.

*Students will be given an office referral if the behavior is chronic or violates the student code of conduct.
Parent/Guardian Notification

Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Please discuss this syllabus and “Flinn Scientific’s Student Safety Contract” with your child. Contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 477-6313 ext. 102 or hluoto@eupschools.org.

**Sign below to indicate that you understand the course expectations and return this form and “Flinn Scientific’s Student Safety Contract” to me by Friday, September 11th for 5 pts.**

You may keep the syllabus for your reference or the student may place it in their binder.

Thank you! I am excited to share my love of science with your student. – *Mrs. Luoto*

Parent/Guardian Signature:____________________________________________________________

Student Signature:_______________________________________________________________

Date: ______________________________

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**Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Contact Preferences**

Student: _________________________________________________________________

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): ________________________________________________________

I prefer to be contacted by:

- [ ] Email: _________________________________________________________________

- [ ] Phone: ________________________________________________________________

- [ ] Text message: __________________________________________________________

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