



7th Grade Life Science

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Course Overview:

Welcome to 7th grade life science! This year in science, you will be learning about the living world, from microscopic cells to the largest animals you can think of and how they all interact together!

Major topics covered will include the following:

- The Nature of Science
- Tools of Scientists
- Characteristics of Living Things
- Cells: The Basic Units of Life
- Heredity, Genes, and DNA
- Evolution of Living Things
- Diversity of Organisms and Classification
- The Six Kingdoms of Life
- Interactions of Living Things and Ecosystems
- Cycles in Nature
- Body Organization and Structure
- Science and Society

Learner Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Think critically about scientific questions posed to them
- Design experiments in order find answers to scientific questions
- Understand how their actions impact the living world around them

In addition, students will develop organizational and study skills that will help them be successful throughout their educational endeavors, as well as a sense of personal responsibility for their educational success.

Standards Covered: This course covers a combination of national and state science standards, as

well as content-area language arts standards.

MCA Test Preparation: Students will learn and practice strategies for reading and interpreting scientific writing and be required to complete scientific article analyses. Students will also learn technical writing skills and be required to write parts of laboratory research reports. Students will use math regularly throughout the course.

Modes of Instruction:

- Laboratory Investigations
- Classroom Discussions
- Teacher Lectures
- Textbook Readings
- Guest Speakers
- Videos and DVDs
- Case Studies
- Internet Activities and WebQuests

Materials Used:

- Text: Holt, Reinhart, and Winston's Life Science and CK-12's Life Science Flexbook
- Schoology - An online Learning Management System where students and parents can access lesson plans and class materials. Please contact your child's teacher for an access code.
- Remind101 - A one-way text messaging and email system we will use to send reminders of upcoming tests and quizzes. With Remind101, all personal information remains confidential.
- Newspaper and Magazine Articles
- Life Science Websites
- Videos and DVDs: PBS's NOVA Series
National Geographic
- Discovery Education Video Clips
- Miscellaneous Scientific Equipment

If a student or his/her parent has questions regarding any of the materials or subjects covered in this class, please contact the instructor to set up a meeting to discuss curriculum or arrange for alternative assignments.

To start out the year, students will have access to a hard copy of the text at school and will have an electronic version of another text on their iPads. Any work that students are expected to do outside of school will be supported by the materials accessible to them. Students will also be expected to bring the following materials to class each day:

- planner
- science notebook (composition-style notebook)
- pencil (no pens will be allowed)

Attendance:

Students will abide by the policy described in the Dragon Handbook. It is important for you to be in class everyday. If an absence is excused or school authorized, students may make up missed work for credit. Students must make arrangements ahead of time so that the necessary materials are available at the time you come in to make up the work. If an absence is unexcused, you will not be given the opportunity to make up missed work. ***It is the responsibility of the student to make up missed work and time.***

Tardies - you will be allowed **one** unexcused tardy per quarter without consequence. Each tardy beyond one will result in the assignment of lunchtime detention.

*****In order to be considered on time, students must be seated and prepared for class with their planner, science notebook, pencil, and science book when the bell rings for class to begin*****

Assessment and Grading:

The following grading scale will be used:

100-94%	A	83-80%	B-	69-68%	D+
93-90%	A-	79-78%	C+	67-64%	D
89-88%	B+	77-74%	C	63-60%	D-
87-84%	B	73-70%	C-	59-0%	F

Please keep in mind the following explanation of grades:

A - achievement that is **outstanding** relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B - achievement that is **significantly above** the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C - achievement that **meets the course requirements** in every respect.

D - achievement that is worthy of credit even though it **fails to meet fully the course requirements.**

F - represents failure to meet course requirements, no credit earned

Grades will be determined from the following types of assessment:

- Daily Assignments/Notebook Checks (50%)
- Tests and Quizzes (50%)

All assignments must be completed on time for credit.

If a student is absent on the date an assignment or notebooks are due, the student will be expected to turn it in when s/he returns to school. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is assigned, s/he he will have 2 extra days per day absent to make up the work.

If a student is absent on the day of a test or quiz, s/he will be expected to take it on the day s/he returns to school. If a student is absent on the day a test or quiz is announced, s/he will be expected to take it with your classmates on the date scheduled. Tests will be announced *at least 3*

days in advance. Quizzes will be both announced and unannounced.

Classroom Expectations:

1. **Be Prompt and Prepared** - be in your seat, have all your materials, and be working when the bell rings. You will not be given a pass to your locker to retrieve materials.
2. **Be Respectful** - of everyone and thing around you - be an active listener, use appropriate language, follow directions the first time, no cell phones or other electronic devices unless directed to use them
3. **Be Attentive and Alert** - especially during labs!
4. **Be Safe** - follow safety procedures, wear safety goggles when necessary, no foods or beverages!

Consequences:

If a student chooses not to follow classroom procedures and expectations, s/he will receive one warning. If a student chooses to continue acting inappropriately, the following may occur per the teacher's discretion: change in seating, phone call to parent, held after class, detention, or removal from class if necessary.

No warnings will be given for cell phone violation, and consequences will follow PCHS policy

It is my personal goal to help my students develop an appreciation for the world of science by making science class an enjoyable experience for all students. I will provide many opportunities for you to be successful and will support your learning in every way I can, but the first line of success belongs to you, the student.

Grades will be updated in School View weekly, and I will post important due dates and test dates there as well. You can also sign up for text and/or email alerts of upcoming tests and quizzes through Remind101. You can find information on how to do this on my website. If you have any questions about this course now or in the future, please feel free to contact me at the phone number or email address listed below. You will also find useful information on my webpage: <http://potvinpchs.weebly.com>. I'm looking forward to a year of exploring the living world with you!

Ms. Potvin

apotvin@pinecity.k12.mn.us

320-629-4182

Please sign, detach, and return bottom portion. Keep remainder for future reference.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the basic guidelines and expectations of 7th Grade Life Science at Pine City Junior-Senior High School.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Parent email address (if available)