

Contact me! ☺ Meredith Sheridan 503 – 399 – 3224 / sheridan_meredith@salkeiz.k12.or.us

Seventh Grade Science Course Description:

Seventh grade science is a semester long class that will introduce students to a variety of topics from the traditional areas of physical, Earth, and life science. Standards based topics we will explore include a focus on beginning chemistry, Photosynthesis & Respiration, ecosystems, Human impact on Earth's resources, Changes in Earth's surface over time, as well as the application of science in engineering and technology. Students will explore these topics through a combination of critical reading and writing opportunities, hands on activities, labs, notes and class discussions.

Differentiation for All Students:

Opportunities for differentiation of course content standards are available to any student who qualifies based on the following tools to determine an appropriate level of course work: Performance on unit pretests and formative assessments, monitoring daily work for understanding, special considerations determined by a 504 plan, IEP,IE, EY,EP, ET, or TAG designation. Parent and student input is also considered.

Opportunities for differentiation may include assignment modification, contracted, standards based independent study, skills based grouping with peers for the purpose of collaboration, and instruction that targets multiple learning styles.

Grading:

Like other core subjects at Whiteaker, this class will follow proficiency based grading protocol. Classwork and homework will account for 20% of the student's grade. Assessments will count toward 80% of the student's grade. The proficiency based scale is a 1-4 rating:

- ❖ **4:** Demonstrates an **advanced understanding** of a standard (87.5% - 100% A)
- ❖ **3:** Demonstrates a **proficient level of understanding** of a standard (69.0% - 87.4% B)
- ❖ **2:** Demonstrates a **basic level of understanding** of a standard (68.9% - 87.4% C / 37.7% - 50.0% D)
- ❖ **1:** Demonstrates a **below basic understanding** of a standard (below 37.7% F)

Classwork and homework are designed to help students move toward proficiency of each standard being taught. Assessments closely follow the learning targets that highlight what students need to know and be able to do. In many cases, the learning targets ARE the assessments of a standard. Learning targets are intended to be used as a study guide to help students self-assess their understanding of the materials being covered. They will be kept in the student's Interactive Science Notebook. Parents may help their student by asking their student to share their understanding of the learning targets and explain essential questions.

Opportunities to Improve:

Students who would like to improve their level of proficiency in class are encouraged to ask questions and attend help sessions offered on Thursdays from 2:40-3:30. Other days may also be available depending on meeting schedules. I am also available for help in the classroom from 7:30 am to 7:50 am.

Students who do not do well on assessments may arrange to take advantage of a second opportunity before or after school AFTER they have attended a help session or can show additional preparation. The second opportunity is weighted 4X more than the first opportunity so it is important to BE PREPARED!

Behavior Expectations:

Students are expected to follow **school-wide expectations to be respectful, responsible, and safe.**

Signature for 7th Grade Science:

Parents/Guardians and Students, please sign below indicating you have read and understand the syllabus for this year. If you have questions, please contact me. I look forward to working with you!

Student Name (print) _____ period _____

Parent Name (print) _____ Parent Signature _____