

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science Syllabus

Life Science is another word for **Biology**, the study of life. We are going to stick close to the curriculum presented in these Kits: *Diversity of Life, Ecology, The Human Body, Our Genes, Our Selves*, and *Youth Take Heart*. These are dynamic and exciting—they are all about **inquiry** science. “What is inquiry science?” you ask. It means we will be doing lots and lots of hands-on investigations and experiments. Roll your sleeves up and get ready to dissect, collect, draw, observe, design, test, document, hypothesize, and more.

We will first tackle the *Diversity of Life, Ecology* and *Our Genes, Our Selves* kits. Get ready for DNA, cells and microscopic life. Did you know that if you added up the mass of every living thing on Earth that bacteria would be more than 50% of the total? Amazing since they are almost impossible to see even in a microscope! We will finish with a special project of your choosing, with presentations. More about this as the time approaches.

We will end the year with the mysterious, the miraculous, the incredible *Human Body & Youth Take Heart* (which hopefully will not be as mysterious when we finish, but still miraculous and incredible). Do you know the importance of a system?

Assessment will be in the form of:

- Your teacher’s observations while you work in class.
- Peer Assessment
- Your science notebook (writing, reading, drawing, calculation)
- Participation and discussion
- Homework & Typed Formal Lab (once per quarter)
- Quizzes (closed book) & Tests (open book)
- Regular Challenges

### Expectations

I understand that people process information in a variety of ways. To facilitate diverse learning styles, there will be a wide assortment of structured learning activities in class and as homework. You will participate in group work, conduct labs and field studies, read, take notes, create visuals, take part in discussions, produce materials, play games, watch slide shows and video clips, analyze case studies, engage in creative writing and much, much more! Expect homework several times each week.

1. **Respect** — for yourself, classmates, teacher, classroom property, & classroom environment
2. **Reliability** — for following classroom rules, guidelines, and agreements at all times
3. **Responsibility** — for being a responsible scholar at all times, coming to class prepared (with pencil, paper, and right attitude), & following classroom rules, guidelines and agreements at all times.

Materials for and used In-Class:

Please bring the following to class everyday: *One lined composition book — 100 pages* • 2-3 Pencils with erasers • Eckstein Planner

## What should I expect from assignments?

Every day there will be some sort of short or long term assignment. Due dates for that assignment will be written down on the whiteboard in class and updated on the website periodically. The assignment is due at the beginning of the class on the day it is due. The exception is when an assignment needs to be peer edited or in some way used in class. Please turn your completed assignment in to the appropriate basket for your class. As you work on your assignments please consider the following:

- Neatness counts: pencil is preferred for written assignments, because we all make mistakes. Journals are stamped daily.
- It is important that you do your best on every assignment. If you do not understand get help. See **Getting Extra Help**.
- LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT (75%)! any day after the day that the work is to be turned in!
- WORK WITHOUT A NAME OR PARTIALLY COMPLETED WORK IS CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE (60%) even if turned in on time.
- WORK MISSED BECAUSE OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCES OR WORK NEVER TURNED IN WILL COUNT AS MISSING (50%).
- Late work due to an excused absence or extension can be turned in for full credit under the following conditions:
  - Extensions on any assignment will be granted only if asked in person or email one (1) day prior to the day to be turned in!
  - Short-term assignments given out in your absence can be turned in late based on the number of days missed (for example if you were home sick for 3 days, a short-term homework assignment can be turned in 3 days after you return for full credit.
  - Long-term assignments will have the same due date as the rest of the class unless unusual circumstances arise and an agreement is arranged with me AHEAD OF TIME.
  - A test missed due to an excused absence must be made up in a timely manner- usually within a few days of returning.
  - Lab/Field activities must be made up within one week of your return. One day a week, lab make-ups will be held during advisory/HR (Tues. or Wed.). If you miss the make-up day, you can no longer get credit for the lab and the lab will count as missing. Note: a few labs require perishable materials and cannot be made up.

## Getting Extra Help

I am available before, after school and during lunch. Come see me if you are having trouble with material we are covering or want to talk about anything going on in class. *If you plan on coming in, please let me know so I can be available in my room.* Also email is a great way to ask questions! You can also get help from classmates or on our classroom website!: Go to: [www.mrbrewer.org/](http://www.mrbrewer.org/).

## Learning Buddies

We are a community that looks out for one another. During the first week of school you will receive the name and phone number of at least 3 different people in your class you can call if absent from school or for questions about an assignment. Use your buddies!! It has been my experience that students that form study groups perform better on tests than those who study completely on their own.

## Plagiarism

While I encourage you to work together in collaboration and discussion in and out of class, it is imperative that you turn in ORIGINAL WORK. Everything that you write must be in your OWN WORDS. Assignments turned in with identical or highly similar answers will both receive zero credit for the assignment. Information found in books, articles or on the World Wide Web should be summarized and cited appropriately. All students will be held to the following guidelines:

1. 1st offense – the paper or material in question will be assigned zero points and the principal and your parents will be notified.
2. 2nd offense – same as 1st offense, plus the student will be put on an administration contract indicating that a third offense will result in a loss of credit in the class.
3. 3rd offense – loss of credit in the class plus disciplinary action.

\*Read the fine print on everything If you write "I love Science" on the top of the page I will give you 1 point extra on that quiz, test, or project. This is good for tests, quizzes, and projects only. I will not mention this in class and I expect those who can read this to get lots of free-bees. This is also a good life skill.

One last note: **I love to teach and I want you to do well and enjoy this class.**

Science, Social Studies, Art and Reading interest me and hopefully you will share my enthusiasm. Every student in this class is capable of earning a good grade. In order to reach this goal you will be expected to:

- **Participate in class discussions and activities.**
- **Turn in all assignments.**
- **Be in class prepared every day.**
- **Respect others' rights and opinions.**
- **Study effectively for tests and quizzes in order to perform well.**
- **Demonstrate an interest and willingness to learn.**
- **Maintain self-control.**
- **Be positive.**
- **Talk to me if you have any problems.**

You will be developing crucial skills that help you in your future. Critical thinking and problem solving skills through group work are taught in this class. You will also be required to work together productively with others, which is one of the most necessary tools you can gain besides learning how to read. Please be open to new ways of looking at things and respect other ideas.

I can be reached/contacted several ways:

### Real Mail

3003 NE 75th St.  
Seattle, WA 98115

### Web Page

[www.mrbrewer.org/](http://www.mrbrewer.org/)

### Email (**best way**)

[mabrewer@seattleschools.org](mailto:mabrewer@seattleschools.org)

### Telephone/Fax

(206) 252-5010  
(801) 665-5066