

GNMS 7th Grade Life Science Syllabus
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Course Description: This course is designed for students to gain the knowledge and skills of a life scientist by learning through research, note-taking, hands-on lab activities, projects, and assessments.

Textbook: Littell, McDougal. Life Science. Houghton Mifflin Company. 2009.
Canfield, Elizabeth S. GNMS Life Science 7. CK17.org. 2018.

Supplies:

- 3-ring binder
- minimum of 4 tab dividers
- colored pencils or crayons
- scissors
- glue or clear tape
- loose-leaf notebook paper
- pencils and sharpener

Course Curriculum: The student will...

- Practice key skills necessary for continued academic success.
- Develop accountability for classroom performance.
- Investigate the characteristics of scientific knowledge and how it is achieved
- Explore units of study including cells, human body, genetics, adaptation and changes over time, and ecology

Major Assessments: (45%) include Exams, Projects, and Readiness Points

Minor Assessments: (55%) include quizzes, exploration labs, and phenomenon investigations.

Feedback: (0%) includes notes, classwork, homework, and interactive notebook (INB) pages to be averaged quarterly for a major grade. Reflects class participation.

Notebook	Complete all notes/assignments and turn in on time to the teacher. This is a feedback grade.
Exploration Lab	Complete all segments and turn in on time to the teacher. This is a minor grade.
Quiz	The following will be announced/unannounced over: bellwork, class notes, vocabulary, and labs.
Project	A detailed handout of project guidelines is provided to the student. Each project will be either done in class or taken home. Deadlines are strictly enforced. This is a major grade.
Exam	A study guide /class review may be given before each test. This is a major grade.
Readiness points	4 points that can be accumulated daily by actively listening (2) and participating (2). These will be averaged weekly for a minor grade and quarterly for a major grade..

Grading scale: 90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), below 70 (F)

Grading Policy:

- 1) Students will receive a “0” for work not attempted/not submitted. All work must be turned in with at least half of the independent portion of the task completed to receive a 50. Work submitted with less than half of the independent work completed will receive a 0.

- 2) Late work will be accepted at any time during the semester and will incur an automatic grade of a **50**. I believe in fostering each student's independence and sense of accountability. Deadlines are important and often inflexible in the adult world. I believe in teaching them early.
- 3) Students will receive four Readiness Points daily for listening and participating in class. These four points provide data on the quality of each student's classroom performance. These points represent a significant portion of the final grade because these two basic skills are required to meet every academic standard in the school. They are vital to the success of the individual student and the class. Each infraction of the class rules beyond the first courtesy notice will result in the loss of either a listening or participation point, of which there are two per day.
- 4) Students who are absent, regardless of reason, may schedule to make up any work missed **within five days** of their return to school without late penalty (Refer to Board Policy). Past the 5th day, student work will be subject to the late penalty. It is the student's responsibility to seek out missing work. Absent students will need to complete and turn in missing work or they will forfeit their Readiness Points for the day(s).
- 5) Students who fail a performance assessment will **NOT** be able to reassess, however at the end of the course, a final exam over all standards that have been taught will be administered as a replacement grade. **Zeros and missing assignments are not eligible for replacement, therefore it is important that all assignments be completed whether late or not.**
- 6) Tutoring will be offered on an individual basis and by invitation only after other classroom interventions have been exhausted. To be eligible for tutoring, a student must have a 90 or better average in Readiness points, *no exceptions*.

Rules/Expectations

The following classroom management policy is in effect to protect your student's right to learn and enjoy school without interference. It ensures a safe environment where all students are free to learn and I am free to teach.

All students will respect authority, the individual rights of others, and the learning environment as demonstrated by:

1. Listen and follow directions.
2. Raise your hand for attention.
3. Respect your classmates and your teacher
4. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
5. Stay seated during class unless asked to do otherwise.
6. Do not use classroom equipment without permission.
7. Put all equipment away after the period is over.
8. Do not play fight or roughhouse.
9. Do not curse or use unprofessional language.
10. Do not bring open food or drinks to class.
11. Adhere to the school-wide dress code policy.
12. Secure phones and other personal items in your bag. *Cell phones and ear buds are not permitted and can be confiscated without warning.*
13. When I clap once, stop, listen and follow directions.

Rules may be added or changed at a later time.

Warnings and Consequences

Students who break a rule will be issued a single warning. After being warned once, students will begin to lose Readiness Points for the day and will receive a consequence which may include parent contact, silent lunch, after-school detention, administrative hold in ISS, confiscation of cell phone or chromebook, or office referral depending on the nature of the infraction and will be concurrent with the loss of Readiness Points. Students are responsible for keeping up with their points balance and may ask for that balance at the beginning or end of class. Readiness Points will not be discussed in class. Readiness points represent a significant portion of the grade in class and are designed to reinforce behavioral accountability.

Any negative behavior will be documented using the school-wide PBIS form. You and your student have the right to request to see a copy of this form at any time by simply emailing me.

EdTech Toolbox

During the semester, students will be using a variety of technologies that can be accessed and monitored at home. All students should be regularly monitoring **Infinite Campus** for updated grade information as well as information on upcoming due dates and missing assignments. Students will be required to use **Google Classroom** for assignments, quizzes, and access to study materials. Students will be required to bring their chromebooks fully charged and ready for each school day.

I have read and understand the syllabus as stated. I will store it in the front of my notebook, where I may reference it at any time. If I have any questions or concerns, I am able to contact my 7th grade science teacher at (706) 883-1535 or through email: canfieldet@troup.org

Student Signature and Date

Parent Signature and Date