



Welcome to Science

Mrs. Cockle * Team 7A

2014-2015

Science 7 is a general science course designed to help students understand basic scientific concepts, to learn to use the scientific process, and to relate current science issues to students' daily lives. Time will be spent reading, taking notes, viewing video clip, discussing, and engaging in lab activities and other various projects.

There are four different units of study corresponding to each quarter, each with its own textbook. Online access to the textbook is available at psschool.com and accessed by using username: lpscience and password: Science1. Textbooks will be checked out to each student for at home use. In the classroom we will use a class set of books. Students should **keep the text** checked out to them **at home** for the quarter!

Science 7 Curriculum

1st Quarter - Inside Earth (Pearson Prentice Hall)

* Plate Tectonics * Earthquakes * Volcanoes *Rocks/ Density and Convection

2nd Quarter - Chemical Building Blocks (Pearson Prentice Hall)

* Matter * Mass, Volume, & Density * Atoms
*Changes in Matter *Elements & the Periodic Table

3rd Quarter - From Bacteria to Plants (Pearson Prentice Hall)

* Classification of Life * Viruses & Bacteria
* Introduction to Plants * Animal Behavior/Experimental Design

4th Quarter - Environmental Science (Pearson Prentice Hall)

* Adaptations *Interactions * Populations *Ecosystems * Living Resources

*** Homework is sporadic and given as is necessary!**

My Philosophy

I believe each student has a right to learn. I am committed to making sure the environment in the science classroom is one of enthusiasm and respect for one another in our attempts at learning. Wanting students to become advocates for themselves and their education, I will give them the responsibility of monitoring their own progress, using **Synergy**. I encourage and invite communication with parents.

Grading

Students will be evaluated in three areas: **Academic Grade**, **Work/Study Habits Grade**, and a **Social /Behavior Skills Grade**.

***Academic Grade (Summative)** Students' grades will be computed from the points they receive on any type of work that shows their current **Mastery of Content material (80% of grade)**. Typically in science this would include announced quizzes, tests, and end of the unit exams. Certain projects deemed evaluative in nature may also make up this grade. The **Work /Study Habits** grade will make up the other **20% of the Academic grade**.

Grade Scale	A = 90-100%	B = 80-84%	C = 70-74%	D = 60-64%
	B+ = 85-89%	C+ = 75-79%	D+ = 65-69%	F = Below 60%

***Work/Study Habits Grade (Formative)** Doing well academically depends upon many factors. The following are ten indicators that will be considered to determine a students' grade in this area.

- * Listens
- * Is On Task
- * Strives for Quality Work
- * Seeks Help as Necessary
- * Participates in Class
- * Few Missing Assignments
- * Comes to Class Prepared
- * Follows Oral & Written Directions
- * Is Organized (**Saves & Brings all work**)
- * Completes Assignments On Time

One way I will evaluate students in this area is through their daily work. I will base a good portion of a students' grade in this area on points earned on **practice/homework assignments**. Ultimately, students will receive a **C** (Commendable), **S** (Satisfactory), or an **N** (Needs Improvement) for this grade category.

Grade points as follows: (Overall percentage calculated to a C, S, or N grade)

20/20 - On time, complete, self- checked & shows concern for quality work

16/20 -Some items incomplete, maybe late or with no name OR is partially self-checked

13/20 - Work only half done & shows less concern for completed quality work

10/20 - Less than half done & shows less concern for completed quality work

0/20 - Did not turn in assignment or received zero points.

***Social/Behavior Skills Grade** This grade is based primarily on the students' willingness and ability to demonstrate positive social behaviors. Grades given will be **C, S, or N**.

Absences and Missing Work

Students should be using the school provided daily planner to list happenings in class, assignments and due dates. Hanging file folders with recent handouts are located on the back counter in the classroom. Students are responsible for checking these folders as soon as they return from an absence. I would be happy to help them understand what they need to do, however, my first duty is to teach class, and so our discussion may have to be after school. **Check Synergy regularly to monitor your students' progress!** Late work accepted up until the Unit exam - then the work will NOT be accepted.

Communication is Key!

Synergy, is a portal for you to use to view your child's progress, Communication through **student envelopes** will also take place at the end of each quarter. In addition, **parent teacher conferences** can also help inform and keep you up to date. If you have further questions or concerns, I can be reached at 436-1220 or email, kcockle@lps.org. I look forward to working with your child!

Kelly Cackle - Science 7A