

Life Science and Technology

7th Grade • 2008 – 2009 • Mrs. Gonzalez



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Office Hours: By appointment at break, lunch, or after school.

Life Science is the study of all living things. In this course, students will learn how to ask meaningful questions about the living world and conduct careful investigations using the scientific method. This course provides students with opportunities for constructing scale models of plant and animal cells, conducting field research of marine organisms and their habitat, and communicating scientific knowledge to their peers.

Class Locations: *Mondays and Tuesdays:* Computer Lab – Library Annex
Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays: Room 210

Topics Covered:

1st Semester:

The Scientific Method
Tools and Systems of Measurement
The Chemistry of Life
Cells
Cellular Transport
Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration
Mitosis and Meiosis

2nd Semester:

Genes and DNA
Evolution
Classification
The Six Kingdoms of Life
Plants
Animals
Human Body Systems

Materials:

- ✓ *Textbook:* Holt Science and Technology, Life Science. Books must be covered at all times.
- ✓ *Three-ring binder* with a supply of *loose-leaf paper* and the following four sections:
 - Notes Daily Warm-ups
 - Handouts Assignments
- ✓ *Student Planner:* provided by IHMS
- ✓ *Black/Blue Pen:* These are the only ink colors allowed!
- ✓ *Red Pen:* for in-class corrections
- ✓ *Pencil:* for math problems only
- ✓ *Colored Pencils:* for diagrams
- ✓ *Scissors*

Classroom Guidelines:

- ✓ Arrive to class on time.
- ✓ Enter the classroom prepared with your supplies and ready to work.
- ✓ Be an active listener and follow directions.
- ✓ Be courteous, respectful, and responsible for your actions and choices.
- ✓ There is no room in our classroom for put-downs. Avoid them at all costs!
- ✓ Lying, plagiarism, or cheating will not be tolerated. Always keep in mind the IHMS Honor Code.
- ✓ Be a risk-taker. Always strive to do your best.
- ✓ When in doubt, ASK!

Grading: Students earn their science grades by participating actively in class and completing homework assignments, quizzes, projects, tests, and semester exams. Students are encouraged to keep track of their own grades in this course using a grade sheet provided by the teacher.

Attendance: Regular attendance is essential for success in this course.

Students are responsible for getting homework assignments on days in which they are absent, either from the IHMS website or another student, and to return to school with as much work completed as possible. Absent work must include an ABSENT SLIP, or it will not be accepted. Students are encouraged to see the teacher regarding questions about any assignments and due dates.

A student who is absent *the day before a test or quiz*, but present when the test was scheduled, should be prepared to take the test or quiz with the class.

A student who is absent *on the test or quiz day only* should be prepared to take the test or quiz on the day she returns.

****If you know you are going to be absent, let me know in advance and we can make arrangements for you. If you are on campus during any portion of the school day, your homework will be due and any scheduled quizzes or tests must be taken. It is your responsibility to come see me if you arrive late to school or leave early and miss my class period.**

Class Participation: Class participation is key to a lively classroom. Students begin each quarter with 100 class participation points, the equivalent of one test grade. Maintaining participation points includes attending class regularly, being on time to class, being prepared, remaining on task, and being attentive.

Daily Warm-ups: Students at IHMS are given a five-minute passing period between classes. Once this time has expired, students are to be seated and working silently on a short warm-up activity. Papers completed during the allotted time are stamped by the teacher and stored in the student's binder. At the end of the week, warm-ups are submitted for points. Lost or unstamped warm-ups are not awarded points. Absent students miss the opportunity to earn points, as daily warm-ups CANNOT be made up.

Homework: My homework policy is simple – there WILL be homework and it MUST be done. Homework is due at the beginning of class and is corrected by the student. Points are awarded for assignments that are completed according to directions and carefully corrected. All homework assignments must include the following heading:

○	Name	Date
	Subject	Period/Grade
	Name of Assignment	

Late Work: Students will be given TWO late homework slips per semester and may submit up to two late assignments with the homework slip within a week of the original due date to receive full credit. Late work slips may be used only for certain assignments made specific by the teacher. For each late homework slip that is not used by the end of the semester, bonus points will be awarded. No other late assignments will be accepted.

Tests/Quizzes: Students will be notified in advance of quizzes and tests. All graded tests and quizzes will be sent home, reviewed by parents, and signed and returned to school. All tests and quizzes are to be kept in student portfolios in the classroom.

Student Portfolios: Each student is required to maintain her own science portfolio. This is a collection of the student's graded work, which remains filed in the science classroom for the duration of the school year. Assignments designated by the teacher (such as quizzes, tests, and samples of written work) must be filed in the portfolio. The inclusion of additional samples of quality science work is also encouraged. Student portfolios are periodically reviewed by the teacher and may also be reviewed by other members of the middle school faculty, the principal, and the student's parents.

Computer Lab: Using a school computer for restricted activities is a very serious offense and can lead to suspension, or in some cases, expulsion. DO NOT access any website that I have not instructed you to access. You may NOT send, receive, or check e-mail. DO NOT even attempt to instant message at school. Never view or post to message boards, or download pictures, programs, or software. The work you do on school computers is not private. You will get caught!

****Students will be made aware of any changes to this syllabus.**

Dear Students and Parents, Please sign and return this page by **Friday, 8/29/08.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me by email and I will respond promptly.

Mrs. Gonzalez, We have read and understand the course syllabus for 7th Grade Life Science and Technology.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date