

Stetson Hills School
Course Syllabus 2019-20
7th Grade Science

Teacher: Mrs. McAllister

Subject: 7th Science

Room: 609

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Hello Parents and Students,

Welcome to 7th grade! I am so excited to be your Science teacher this year. This will be my fifth year teaching Science at Stetson Hills but my tenth year teaching 7th grade Science. I have degrees from The University of Findlay and Youngstown State University in Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health and also Secondary Life Science Education.

Course Objective

This year, students will develop their understanding of processes that occur on the Earth by focusing on Earth's Geological History, the Earth's role in Planetary Science, and Populations & Ecosystems. The scientific inquiry process will establish the basis of learning in Science. It will also engage students in learning strategies that will help them understand Science concepts. We will be using hands-on activities, small & large group activities, individual and group projects to get excited about Science!

Course Standards

This class aligns to the Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards. (www.ade.az.gov).

Grading Policy

Scale:	
A= 90-100%	Proficient work on all content objectives and advanced work on some or many objectives.
B= 80-89%	Proficient work on all content objectives.
C= 70-79%	Proficient work on most content objectives, although not all.
D= 60-69%	Proficient work on at least ½ of the content objectives but missing objectives and is at significant risk of failing.
F= 50-59%	Proficient work on fewer than ½ of the content objectives and is failing.
F= 49%	Proficient work on fewer than ½ of the content objectives and is failing.

Standards-Based Grading Policy:

In order for my students' grades to correctly reflect their understanding of the State Standards I am required to teach, my gradebook will consist of assessments (totaling 95% of the overall grade) and homework (totaling 5% of the overall grade).

Assessments can be in the form of: tests, quizzes, and projects. Homework can consist of bellwork, classwork, and take home practice.

Absent/Late/Missing Work:

- Submitting work on time is the responsibility of the **student**.
- **All late and absent work will be accepted for 2 weeks past the date entered in the gradebook.**
- Missing (absent) work will receive a 49% until the assignment has been turned in and graded.
- All absent work will need to be completed and turned in for grading prior to the last week of each quarter.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be offered. Extra credit is not an accurate way to show mastery of concepts.

Re-teaching and Reassessment

At teacher's discretion and only after all assigned work for that unit/assessment prior to the final assessment for that unit has been completed.

***It is the responsibility of the **student** to keep track of their makeup work and follow the guidelines listed above in order to receive full credit. To help them I have given multiple ways of keeping up with their school work including my website, student contacts, and their student planner in ISN.

Parent/Student Communication

* I **highly** suggest you utilize the websites—you can find class/school announcements, lesson plans, copies of notes, handouts, etc.

*Parents can also sign up for weekly progress reports to be emailed directly to their email account through Power Schools. I highly encourage doing so as this is the best way to stay up-to-date with your child's grades at school.

*Parents and students are also always welcome to contact me through email (preferred) or phone.

Supplies

Students must always be prepared for class. This means the student needs to come to class with all supplies necessary for learning. It is expected that students come to class each day with the following materials:

Composition Notebook

Suggested Items to have daily: pencils, pencils, glue sticks, markers, and colored pencils.

Supply Donations:

The following are items that are very useful in the classroom, but not required. Donations are always appreciated!

Tissues, Sanitizing Wipes, Pencils, Hand Sanitizer, White Board Markers

Arizona law requires that public schools provide supplies required for academic success. This list represents optional, supplementary items which you may supply, at your discretion. If you have questions, feel free to contact the school.

Classroom Expectations and Components

Expectations

I have five rules/expectations that I believe will make for a safe, encouraging, and fun learning environment if followed. They are as follows:

1. **Be Respectful:** Be kind with actions and words to the teacher, staff, students, and school.
2. **Be Prepared:** Have what you need, be in charge of your materials and assignments

3. **Follow Directions:** Do what you are told or asked to do; stay on task.
4. **Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat:** Too many students out of their seats is a safety concern.
5. **No food/gum/candy:** Multiple chemicals and substances are used in the Science classroom so eating and drinking in the classroom becomes a safety concern.

Discipline

As stated in the student handbook, the middle school team practices “Love and Logic.” This is a method used by teachers to set limits without anger, build strong home-school connections, immediately handling disruptive students, help students own and solve their own problems, etc.

The students will be issued a behavior card and must be kept with you **at all times**. You will be able to earn PACE tickets for displaying positive behavior and negative marks for negative behavior. Any student who displays disruptive (DIS) disrespectful/defiant (DD) behaviors or Tardy behavior will receive the following:

1st Infraction: Verbal Warning

2nd Infraction: Lunch Detention

3rd Infraction: After School Detention

4th Infraction: 1 Week of Lunch Detentions

5th Infraction: Office Referral

Components

- **Interactive Student Notebooks (ISN)-** An ISN is a note-taking/class work tool that combines note-taking with group work, class activities, and study skills. I believe note-taking is an imperative part of learning and understanding concepts. It is expected that a student uses their ISN to take notes during class, participate in ISN activities, use as a tool to complete homework, and study for quizzes and tests. If a student uses their ISN as expected, then I believe they will be more successful in class. Students may also complete in-class activities or homework in their ISN. It is very important for them to have every day.

- **Bell Work-** Bell work is a small activity given to the student at the beginning of the class, usually lasting about five minutes. This is used as a reinforcement of learned material.

- **Homework-** It is expected that students complete homework and turn it in on time.

Class participation

Each student is required to participate daily in class discussions, group assignments, and activities.

Academic dishonesty

Cheating, fabrication, unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, alteration of materials, forgery, or theft will not be tolerated. Result of academic dishonesty is a failing grade on the assignment.

Volunteers

Volunteers are always appreciated at Stetson Hills. There might be times throughout the year when I will need a volunteer in my classroom. Upon these needs, I will send out an email asking for any parents who are willing. However, I will not be needing regular volunteers.

Teacher Comments

If you have any questions or comments regarding the course syllabus or grading policy throughout the

year, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. Thank you for taking an active role in your child's learning.

As the teacher I reserve the right to make any changes necessary to the syllabus.