

7th Grade Life Science at Slauson Middle School
Mrs. Kirsten Workman ~ Room 311

Contact Information:

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Suggested Student and Classroom Supply List:

- College ruled composition notebook (Cardboard covers last the longest.)
 - 12 pack colored pencils
 - A pocket folder, binder with a section dedicated to science or accordion folder
 - Number 2 sharpened pencils
 - Access to online textbook
 - A large box of tissues for the classroom
 - Surface sanitizing wipes (any brand)
 - White paper toweling or pump soap for the classroom
- *Teaching science requires a lot of lab "stuff." I appreciate your support throughout the year!

Life Science 7 Course Sequence Unit Essential Questions:

Organisms: Macro to Micro

What makes something "living"?
How do organisms maintain life?
How do new organisms come about?
What are the differences between life forms?

Climate Change

How do we know that our global climate is changing?
What are the factors that influence climate change?
How does human activity impact the Earth's environment?

Metabolic Reactions

How do things inside our body work together to make us feel the way we do?

Evolutionary History

Why is it so challenging to develop a vaccine for HIV?
How does animal morphology and the environment affect survival?
What is the driving force behind evolution?

*Specific expectations are available on the AAPS website through the Parent Portal to ATLAS.

Student Planners:

One of the most successful organizational tools for middle school students is an assignment planner. A student assignment planner is provided for each student. Students must carry their planners to each class, every day! Lost planners can be replaced by purchasing one in the Main Office. I incorporate time in class for the completion of the planner. **This is the FIRST place students and parents should check for homework assignments and important information.**

Policies Regarding Homework and Hall Passes:

Your seventh grade student has **SOMETHING** he/she can be working on every night for homework although it may not be in science. I expect all work to be turned in on time. That said, late work is accepted for credit if it is turned in within the interim in which it was assigned. A red "L" will be noted by late assignments in Power School. Late or missing assignments are reflected in the citizenship grade at the end of each quarter.

As a general rule, I do not give hall passes for forgotten items in lockers, getting a drink (unless the student is coughing or sick), and casual bathroom use. These details should be dealt with during passing time. In the event a pass needs to be given, the student will need to have **HIS OR HER** signed planner in order to be in the halls or the bathroom during class.

Grades and Power School:

I post assignments in Power School once they have been assigned and/or graded. Power School does not take the place of the student planner for upcoming assignment information. Interim grades are e-mailed via Power School to parents halfway into each quarter. Quarter grades are sent through Power School about one week after the end of each marking period. I am always happy to make a print out from Power School by request.

There are two types of grades you will see in Power School, formative and summative. Formative assessments and check-ins scored on a 4-point scale that are not counted on the final grade but do give progress information as the student learns. Often this is information collected on an exit ticket.

4 = I got it!

3 = Almost there!

2 = Moving in the right direction

1 = Just getting started

0 = I don't get it or no evidence of learning target yet!

Summative assessments, lab write-ups, science log entries, class assignments, and projects do count toward the quarter grade, and are graded on the traditional percent-based Middle School Grading Scale. This can be found in the Student Planner.

Please feel free to contact me at any time for questions, progress reports, or other concerns.