

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

*7th Grade Science ~ Rebecca Costello
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Room # 114*

I. Course Overview:

Seventh grade science is an introduction to Chemistry and Biology. This year we will be starting our new curriculum according to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This will be an exciting change with new topics, such as chemistry, cells, heredity and evolution. We will explore these topics using readings, videos, hands-on projects and labs.

II. Overall Course Objectives:

Students will learn how to use information to support their ideas and make conclusions about topics that we cover. I want students to always ask themselves, “Does this make sense?” while using information to make decisions.

III. Material Required:

Students need a composition book, something to write with (pen or pencil) and three paper bags to cover textbooks. A 3-ring binder is not required, but will help keep papers organized.

IV. Class/Behavior Expectations:

There are two basic rules for this science class. They are “respect” and “safety”. Students are expected to be respectful of the people and materials around them, and are to conduct themselves in a safe manner at all times. Anything that is not safe or respectful will lead to consequences.

V. Attendance Policy – as stated in handbook:

A maximum of twenty (20) absences (excused or unexcused) will be permitted without academic penalty. Students who exceed the maximum twenty (20) days may be considered for non-promotion. In an effort to inform parents/guardians of the importance of regular school attendance the school will:

1. Inform the parent/guardian in writing after ten (10) absences are recorded.
2. A meeting will be scheduled with the parent/guardian after fifteen (15) absences are recorded.
3. A letter will be sent to the parents/guardians after twenty (20) absences have been recorded indicating that the child may be considered for non-promotion.

VI. Grading Policy:

Grading is done on a cumulative points system. Each assignment has points that can be earned (homework and class work is 5-10 points, projects and tests are often 20 or more points). To earn full credit on assignments, students must follow all directions and turn work in on time. Extra credit is rarely offered. Late assignments may be accepted within a week of the due date based on the particular assignment and its due date, but will have points deducted. Some assignments can be re-done and points averaged to improve grades. Please speak with me about individual assignments.

VII. Academic Integrity Statement:

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following guidelines:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form).

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
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Disciplinary action by administration which may include office detention or suspension

VIII. Teacher Availability for Extra Help:

Extra help is given as needed after school or during available time in school. Contact me and we'll set up an appropriate time!

IX. Wheeler High School Academic Expectations met by this course:

Collaboration, Literacy, Analysis, Communication

