

Life Science
Mrs. Eaton
Carmichael Middle School 2002-2003

Course Description

Students use scientific investigations to expand their understanding of life around them, while applying their knowledge to solve problems about real life situations. Students will use a variety of methods to effectively communicate their understanding of life science.

Course Objectives/Outline

The student will know what scientific inquiry is

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The student will understand the skills and processes of scientific investigation

The student will understand the nature and context of science and technology.

The student will be able to know that specialized cells within multicellular organisms form different kinds of tissues, organs and organ systems to carry out life functions.

The student will be able to know that individual organisms use matter and energy for life processes and the mechanisms accomplishing these processes are complex and integrated and regulated.

The student will be able to investigate and examine the scientific evidence used to develop theories for speciation, adaptation, and biological diversity.

The student will be able to explain how organisms interact with their environment and other organisms to acquire energy, cycle matter, influence behavior, and establish competitive or mutually beneficial relationships.

The student will be able to categorize plants and animals into groups according to how they accomplish life processes and by similarities and differences in external and internal structures.

The student will be able to understand that all living things reproduce and pass on genetic information, and that organism's characteristics are determined by both genetic and environmental influences.

The student will be able to Identify and describe human life functions and the interconnecting organ systems necessary to maintain human life such as digestion, respiration, reproduction, circulation, excretion, movement, disease prevention, control and coordination.

The student will be able to explain how human societies' use of natural resources affects quality of life and the health of ecosystems.

Course Materials

Textbooks:

Prentice Hall SCIENCE: The Nature of Science (If Available)

Prentice Hall SCIENCE: Ecology; Earth's Natural Resources (If Available)

Prentice Hall SCIENCE: Life Science

The Tapteal Greenway Curriculum

Videos/Kits

Foss/ Diversity of Life

Hanford Reach Last of the Free Flowing Columbia River

The Hanford Ecology

Bill Nye Series

Great National Parks: Grand Canyon

Evaluation/ Grading

Participation Points 40% of the Grade:

The students will be expected to participate daily in class.

Each student will present an oral research report.

The student will be expected to develop a science project

The students will need to bring their assigned textbook daily.

The student needs to bring at least two sharpened pencils, a correcting pen, a high lighter and a set of colored pencils daily.

The student is expected to treat others respectfully by using appropriate volume or not speaking when the class is informed to work silently. The students also need to speak kindly to each other and their teachers when asking questions or conversing.

The student is expected to be in class on time.

If the student is absent the student is responsible to make up the missed work. They should call the

The student needs to participate in classroom activities and Laboratory assignments 30% of their grade. If the student does not complete the work in class then it is expected that the student will complete the work at home. There will always be a written report required for each laboratory assignment.

20% of the Grade is On Going Assessment, which is the work that the student is completing in order to understand the concepts being taught.

40% of the Grade is Cumulative Assessment, which is the end project that the student compiles to show that they have learned the concept. This is the Science Fair Project and the oral Presentation. We will follow all of the National Science and Engineering Fair guidelines to help walk the students through the Inquiry process. **All students must dress their best when presenting their projects.**

Behavioral Expectations

All students need to listen when the instructor is sharing information, sit in assigned seats when they are given, participate in class activities and follow instructions. Students will be expected to participate in laboratory activities and clean up after themselves when the class is finished. The student must dress their best.

When on field trips the students must obey all instructions or parents will be called to come and pick their child up from the field trip.

Each student must use appropriate volume and speak respectfully to others. Hand in any homework on time including laboratory written reports. If a student chooses to disobey the rules the student will lose the responsibility points for that day. If the student

continues to disregard the rules of the class the student's parents will be contacted. If there are three infractions a form letter will be sent home to the parents to inform them of the situation. If the student continues in the same behavior the referral process as set up by the school will be followed.

Contacting Mrs. Eaton

If you would like to discuss your child's progress with me you may call me at the school Monday through Friday 2:45-4:00 p.m.. Before school will be setting up the Science classes. If you call the school in the morning before Third Period, my planning period, then I will call you back as soon as I can. You may email me at laurie_eaton@rsd.edu