

7th Grade Life Science Course Syllabus

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Room # 126

LEARNING MODEL STATEMENT

Regardless of the learning model in which students are scheduled, Traditional Model, Buffalo eLearning, or VCS Online, students are required to meet all expectations of the course guidelines.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Students will be greeted at the door and a small portion of hand sanitizer will be dispensed onto the palms of their hands upon entry to the classroom.
- Students will wear face coverings whenever social distancing or the use of partitions is unable to be honored in the classroom.
- Students should come to class prepared with personal classroom materials in order to limit the sharing of supplies.
- Students are expected to thoroughly wash their hands for 20 seconds or more before exiting the restroom and returning to the classroom.
- Students will only be allowed to use hallway water fountains to refill personal water bottles.
- When necessary, students are expected to practice coughing and sneezing etiquette.
- Students are expected to transition quickly between classes and will be required to wear face coverings.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goals of this course are

- To provide opportunities to study the concepts of human biology, genetics, and ecosystems through exploratory investigations, activities, and applications.
- To provide each student with the opportunity to develop skills of observation, critical thinking, responsibility, and cooperative learning.
- To allow students to develop a cooperative scientific investigation (inquiry investigation is a team project).

TEXTBOOK/CURRICULUM

- Pearson Elevate Life Science ***Science Fair for advanced classes only*
 - **1st Nine Weeks** – Nature of Science, **Science Fair****, Living Things, Classification and Microorganisms
 - **2nd Nine Weeks** – Cells, Microscopes, and Body Systems, **Science Fair****
 - **3rd Nine Weeks** – Genetics, Mitosis/Meiosis, and Change Over Time
 - **4th Nine Weeks** – Ecosystems, Energy/Matter Cycles, and Environmental Issues

ASSESSMENT

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

Practice	--	30%
Performance (Mastery)	--	70%

Grading Scale: A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under "middle school", "Forms/Documents/Newsletters":

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 20-21 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

Buffalo eLearning Students

All Buffalo eLearning students must be logged in for the entire period of each class to be counted as present per the VCS Reopening Plan on page 17. Students will sign in and attend school remotely, following a standard school schedule and bell times. Attendance will be taken daily in each course and will be recorded in Skyward each period. All assignments will be monitored for submission per the communicated due date.

VCMS Bell Schedule

- 1st period: 8-8:50
- 2nd period: 8:54-9:50
- 3rd period: 9:54-10:45
- 4th period: 10:49-11:40
- 5th period: 11:44-1:05 (including a 25-minute lunch period)
- 6th period: 1:09-2:00
- 7th period: 2:04-2:55

Buffalo eLearning students should follow the same classroom expectations as students in the traditional model. It is highly recommended that school uniform shirts be worn to support a proper learning environment.

"Students choosing not to participate in instruction and assignments in any of the three offered models will be directed to the following options: Homeschooling, returning to county/district school of residence, and/or retention," per the VCS Reopening Plan, page 5.

VCS Online Students

Students will work on assignments during non-traditional hours and maintain contact with their teacher at least one time per week during the teacher's office hours posted in the course Google Classroom.

PROCEDURES

Daily Required Materials:

- 2-pocket folder with prongs and paper
- Pencils, Pens, Highlighters, Colored Pencils
- Chromebook, charged
- Earbuds or headphones
- *Advanced also include one composition book*

Google Classroom/Email:

- Students will utilize Google Classroom for different activities per teacher request.
- Student email must be accessed daily.

Bell Ringer/Dismissal:

- Read and follow all instructions posted on the board.
- Sharpen pencils
- Be in seat, working when bell rings

Make-up Work: If absent...

- Online assignments are given multiple days to complete the work.
- However, any assignment that has a previously determined due date, including computer based assignments, that the due date must be observed unless arrangements have been made with the assigning teacher.

Late Work:

- Assignments that are one day late will receive up to 60% of the actual grade (based on accuracy, not completion)
- Assignments that are turned in after one day late, will not receive credit.
- However, any assignment that has a previously determined due date, including computer based assignments, that the due date must be observed unless arrangements have been made with the assigning teacher.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Please check the teacher connection page on a regular basis for up to date assignments, classwork, homework, tests, and quizzes. Please make sure to check the calendar for the correct class period.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.