



7th Grade Life Science

Mrs. Dannemann Rm. 201
pdannemann@rhinebeckcsd.org 871-5500 x 5201

Course Topics This year we will be exploring *Life Science*: the study of life!

Major topics include:

- Molecules to organisms: structures and processes
- Ecosystems: interactions, energy, and dynamics
- Heredity: inheritance and variation of traits
- Biological evolution: unity and diversity

Daily Materials

1-inch Science binder with some loose-leaf paper

Pencil

Agenda Binder

'Do now journal' (composition notebook; stays in classroom)

Textbooks can stay at home; we have a class set

Homework

My Canvas site includes a calendar for homework and other class events.

The Canvas site can be accessed under the 'academics' tab on the school website.

Homework is due at the beginning of science class. Late homework will **not** be accepted for credit. Larger assignments (such as projects and labs) will be accepted late, but will drop a grade (A+ ... A ... A- ... B+ ... etc) each additional day.

Grading

Grading is based on a **total point system** (total points earned / total points possible).

Each quarter will offer a variety of assignments and assessments. The typical point value ranges are as follows:

Quizzes/Tests: 20 - 50 points each

Labs/class work: 10 - 20 points each

Homework: 3 - 5 points each

Projects/larger assignments: 20 – 30 points each

Binder checks (for organization): 10 points per quarter

'Do now journal': 30 points per quarter

Class Participation: 20 points per quarter

Quiz/Test Corrections

Students will almost always have the opportunity to correct their tests and quizzes in order to earn back half the points missed. There is a specific format required for corrections – this will be reviewed after the first quiz/test.

Absences

Students are responsible to find out what they missed during an absence. Students are encouraged to take the initiative and be proactive about absences. My Canvas site is a great resource for this as lessons and materials are often posted for students to access away from school. If a student knows ahead of time that he/she will be out on a given day or class period, he/she should check with me to see if there is anything I can provide ahead of time.

In general, students will have the number of days they were absent to make up any work they missed. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Dissections

We will be dissecting frogs in class this spring as we learn about the different body systems. If there are moral, religious, or other objections regarding this assignment, please indicate so on the signature page. For those students not completing the actual dissection, there will be access to a virtual dissection (on the computer) for the same credit and learning opportunities.



Parents/Guardians:

During the first few days of school, the students and I will go over the guidelines and expectations. I feel it is important to keep you in the communication loop. Please review and discuss these guidelines with your student, then sign and return this sheet. The front page will stay in your student's science binder. Thank you in advance for taking the time to go over this information. I'm looking forward to a great year with your son or daughter!

Student Name (printed): _____

Student Name (signed): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (signed): _____



Frog Dissection

Please initial by your selected option:

_____ My student will participate in the frog dissection lab (with a preserved frog).

_____ Due to moral, religious, or other objections against actual dissections, my student will complete the virtual frog dissection lab (on the computer).