

## Seventh Grade Science

Teacher: Mrs. Kathy Collins

School Website: <http://www.knoxschools.org/powellms>

### Student Expectations: ABOVE ALL RESPECT YOURSELF, OTHERS, & LEARNING

1. Personal Best (prepared with work completed)
2. Truthful
3. Trustworthy
4. Active Listener (giving undivided attention to teacher and other students who are contributing to the learning process)
5. Appreciate Others (encourage peers & teacher, negative comments are not tolerated)

### Contact

I can be contacted at the school during my plan time between 2:00 and 3:30 daily. The school number is 938-9008. If I am unavailable, please leave a message, and I will return your call as soon as possible. One convenient way to reach me is by sending an e-mail to [kathy.collins@knoxschools.org](mailto:kathy.collins@knoxschools.org), I check this e-mail account each weekday. Please understand that I will try to return all messages left on a weekday within twenty-four hours.

I will contact parents with a variety of methods. First of all, I post grades weekly. Secondly, I may contact you by phone or handwritten notes. I will use e-mail as well.

### General Course Description

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> grade science! This year you will be studying physical and life science. Throughout the year, we will use the eight practices of real scientists which are as follows: ask questions and define problems; design and use models; plan and carry out investigations; analyze and interpret data; support argument with evidence; obtain, evaluate, and communicate information; explain why things happen and figure out how to solve problems; and use math. First nine weeks students will discover that all matter is made of atoms, how they are structured, how they behave in different states and how they combine to create new substances through chemical reactions. During the second nine weeks, we will begin a study of biology including comparing how cells look in different kingdoms of life and how the different parts of cells work to keep them alive. This module culminates in a study of human body systems where cells form tissues, organs, and organ systems to support the life of the entire human organism. Second semester, we will continue our study of life science, which includes a variety of topics such as: cell processes, reproduction, genetics, and heredity. The year will end with a study of the impact of man's activity on the environment. By completing this *challenging* content, we will be meeting the curriculum standards and guidelines of Knox County Schools as well as those outlined in the state curriculum. The state standards can be accessed on the following website: [Tennessee Science Standards](#)

### Textbook

Tennessee Interactive Science by Pearson

The loss or damage of the textbook may incur charges of up to \$60.

\*Note: Each student will be issued a consumable textbook. It will be stored in the classroom for student use. Additional books are available for purchase from Pearson if desired. However, students will be able to access an on-line version of the textbook. More info to come at a later date.

### **Supplemental Texts**

Students will be building knowledge from informational texts pulled from a variety of sources such as newspapers, science magazines, and on-line science websites such as Scholastic Science News, National Geographic, Newsela, and Common Lit.

### **Audiovisual**

Throughout the year, instructional videos may be shown in class. These videos or video segments may include educational products of: Teacher's Video Company, Disney (*Dolphin Tail*), National Geographic, Dr. Seuss (*The Lorax*), Amoeba Sisters, TED Talks, Nucleus Medical Media, Nickelodeon (*Jimmy Neutron*), Bill Nye and Discovery Education. Students will also watch mini-videos from Brainpop.com regularly. If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing, and an alternative assignment will be provided.

**Student Materials:** agenda book, **One, three or five subject spiral bound notebook preferably with a plastic front cover (they will hold up all year)**, notebook paper, 2 or more pencils, pen, highlighter, colored pencils, and a **two pocket folder**.

*\* Note: If your funds are limited, the spiral notebook and the folder are the two most important supplies. Please have your child see me if they need any supplies.*

### **Grades**

On each 4 1/2 weeks progress report, student's performance will be evaluated based on daily work, quizzes, tests, and projects. Tests and projects will have a value of 100 to 200 points while points for daily work and quizzes will be based on the length of the assignment. Grades will be calculated as: points earned/points possible

The Knox County grading scale is as follows:

**A: 100-93**

**B: 92-85**

**C: 84-75**

**D: 74-70**

**F: 69 and below**

The percentage breakdown for grades is as follows:

\* Practice Work (includes homework, class work, and lab activities - 40%)

\* Quizzes (30%)

\* Unit Tests & Projects (30%)

**Make-Up Work:** Attendance is fundamental for success in school. If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to collect the assignments assigned on the days they were absent. I strongly suggest your student swap contact info with two other students in their class to help them make up any class notes. If you are absent on a day that an assignment you have received is due, it is due the day you return to class. Make up work from an absence shall be returned to me in a timely fashion. See the Knox County Policy referenced in the student agenda. Any worksheets you miss will be available in a folder on the classroom wall. It is your responsibility to get them!

### **Religion in the Classroom:**

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

- \* Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
- \* The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
- \* Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

### **Lab**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade laboratory will be used often for activities. In addition to the student expectations, appropriate behavior is expected in the lab. Students who do not adhere to lab rules may be excluded from that day's activities and be required to complete an alternative assignment. Students who do not come prepared with their pre-lab assignment may also be excluded from lab until the assignment is completed. **The lab safety contract must be signed and returned in order for students to participate in the lab after passing the lab safety quiz.**

### *A Note from Mrs. Collins*

*I am delighted to be working with your child this year as their science teacher. I try to be an expert on teaching and learning, but you are the expert on your child. Together, we make a great team! The seventh grade science curriculum is exciting and interesting, yet very challenging. Your student will have to work hard to master all the learning required. I appreciate your support in encouraging them to complete assignments and study hard. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you and your child this year!*