

**7th Grade: Life Science
Academic Agreement**

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GENERAL OVERVIEW (Regents-based course): We begin with the scientific method and basic science process skills like observation, measurement, collecting data, and communicating data. The program then focuses primarily on three complementary points of view: the unity of life, the diversity of life, and the interrelatedness of life. The unit on human biology will explore the main features of the human organ systems. As much as possible, students will be motivated to explore the environment around them and engage in hands-on investigations. They will also learn techniques that will help them organize and connect different ideas together. Ultimately, students will come to fully realize that the human body is proof positive that there is a God, and He most definitely has a plan!

GRADING POLICY:

65%	exam average
15%	lab grade
10%	assignments
5%	written submissions/projects
5%	class participation/decorum

Learning Materials: Chapter notes, review sheets, cheat sheets, rubrics, vocabulary lists, labs etc. will be available for download and/or printing via Classroom.

Chapter Notes: Students are required to stay one half page ahead of our classroom discussion. This is accomplished by **critically reading** (not skimming and/or scanning) his/her chapter notes. If your child is not reading 3 or 4 nights per week, our academic agreement is not being fulfilled. **Suggestion: ½ page of notes per night, read 2x.**

Review sheets are teacher-chosen/generated questions. They mirror the upcoming exam. For **Multiple Choice:** students **must** indicate why the other choices **are wrong** (not just circle their answer). If this requirement is not met, the student is removed from the class (for that review session). *These are not graded assessments.*

Cheat sheets are also teacher-chosen/generated. They run the gamut: from simple word recognition, vocabulary and writing skills through **HOTS** (higher order thinking skills). 100% credit is awarded for **completion**, alone. I record all the 100's and then we review the sheet. Cheat sheet work is **not** accepted late as the due date is announced well in advance.

All material reviewed and class discussion focuses on the application of the known scientific fact to a broader scientific law or theory. Students are always held accountable for their thoughts.

Exams: Students are advised to focus on **chapter notes and their own written notes** (class discussion-based). **Review/cheat** sheets come next. Finally, any and all **diagrams** covered in class. Multiple choice questions are **not** memorization skill-based. They are application-type questions. **Historically, these prove more difficult for my first year students to master.**

Early exams start with 50 total questions. Ultimately, exams will consist of 86 total questions (all future Science State and Regent Exams total 84-86 questions).

Exam questions are chosen based on a weighted system of 1, 2 and 3 Degree of Difficulty (DOD), with 3 being the most difficult. 25% are DOD 1, 50% are DOD 2 and 25% are DOD 3.

Life happens: the printer runs out of ink, kids get sick, etc....

When Absent (unforeseen), cheat sheets (and other assignments) should be emailed by 2:30 pm on the due date or as soon as the student is well enough to do so.

When Absent (scheduled), cheat sheets (and other assignments) due while the student will not be present, must be submitted prior to the scheduled absence. Students are expected to take care of their business.

Make up Exams are administered **after school** from approx 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm. The student is dismissed once the exam is completed. A teacher-parent-student date will be confirmed, via email.

Exams are not administered to individual students prior to being administered to the entire class.

Forgotten work (or no ink in printer!) Essays, cheat sheets and projects **forgotten that morning**, will be **accepted** via **email** on that **very same day**. There is no reason to jump into the car....

1. Work must be sent before **3:15 pm**. Students can scan, take a picture etc and send to meet this deadline.

2. Students must then submit a **hard copy the very next school day**.

If these 2 criteria are met, there will be no loss of credit.

Essays are to be completed in Black, 12, Times New Roman Font, Double-spaced, MLA style heading. Students are required to **think for themselves**. Information/material not of the student's own creation must be cited.

Email: I will accept and open email from a student's school-provided address but I will reply to **BOTH** the student and parent. Proper email formatting is required. Directions found on Class page.

Labs: Lab sessions are fun and subject-specific. Therefore, the subject matter is also exam material. Make-up labs are **NOT** offered. An **Exempt** is recorded for students absent on a lab date.

a. Labs are subject to scheduling on any day of the week.

b. On the report card, a "2" is achieved for a numeric grade average of 70-79, "3" for 80-93 and "4" for 94-100.

Our Academic Agreement calls for my student to have:

- the "verb" in them to ask as many questions, as humanly, possible.
- prepared for class (by having read the designated note section as per the chapter outline).
- his/her Chromebook, fully charged.
- at least two functioning pens: Do Not Ask Me For A pen!
- an "accordion" style folder with a minimum 5 sleeves.
- work ready to be submitted (when applicable): this means already stapled!
- completed written assignments and be fully prepared to discuss his/her responses.
- the fortitude and respect to **tell the truth and nothing but the truth** should the situation present itself.
- the confidence to speak directly to me concerning missing homework, late essays, inaccurate exam grades etc. *Parent notes are not necessary for these types of issues.*
- \$.50 at the ready should the student respond: "Yeah, What, Whaa, Like, Nah, I dunno" (as examples)
- a sense of humor and the willingness to enjoy SCIENCE!

Class Participation/Decorum: It is my goal to involve each student in every class. I build in 5 additional points for participation and decorum. Students begin with a "3" and then the majority will work their way up with appropriate class activism. However, sometimes a student will attempt to be that negative class presence (in essence trying to waste everyone else's time and your tuition money). To be honest, I have absolutely no patience or degree of flexibility with that choice of behavior. Therefore, in addition to the school-mandated process of dealing with inappropriate behavior I utilize these 5 "wiggle" points.

We have read the Academic Agreement in regard to 7th Grade Science. In addition, permission is given for my son/daughter to attend Science class on the beach.

Student's Name & Homeroom _____

Student's Signature

Date Agreed To

Parent's Signature

Date Agreed To