



Pine Middle School

“Home of the Patriots”
<http://washoecountyschools.org/pine/>

7th Grade Science
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COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Course Description/Outline This one year course focuses on living organisms including their structure, diversity, heredity and interaction with the environment. Using an activity based approach students will work with classmates to explore these topics by making observations, measurements, and collecting and interpreting data to gain a better understanding of life on our planet. Building on content background including specialized vocabulary presented in class students will keep a journal and apply scientific problem solving steps to study live organisms and their interactions with the environment.

Course Goals:

1. To identify and critically evaluate information in data, tables, and graphs and know there are multiple methods for organizing items and information.
2. To evaluate information to distinguish between fact and opinion and know different explanations can be given for the same evidence.
3. Design and conduct a controlled experiment and know how to use appropriate technology and laboratory procedures safely for observing, measuring, recording, and analyzing data.
4. Recognize that scientific inquiry includes evaluating results of scientific investigations experiments observations, theoretical and mathematical models, and explanations proposed by other scientists.
5. Examine the consequences of technologies which can cause resource depletion and environmental degradation, but understand that technology can also increase resource availability, mitigate environmental degradation, and make new resources economical.

Course Schedule & Resources: The following is a projected year-long plan of study for Life Science. Additional information about school wide science events and links to other resources is accessible on the department page of the school website at:

http://washoecountyschools.org/pine/dept_content/science/science.htm

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Science Skills & Tools	Human Body Systems	Fast Plants	Heredity
Structure of Life	Learning About Learning	Diversity of Life	Organisms and their Environment
Meet the Creatures			
Science Symposium	Science Symposium	Science Symposium	

Hours of Availability: Due to various meetings and commitments the teacher is available by appointment from 7:15 to 7:30 in the morning and 2:15 to 2:40 in the afternoon. You may also E-mail the teacher and he/she will respond as soon as possible. E-mail addresses are in the front of the planner and on the school website.

Materials Needed: Students, please bring the following items to class each day.

- Blue OR Black pens, only
- Hand-held sharpener with cover
- 3 ring binder or shared binder
- Marble top composition book
- Metric ruler
- Pine Patriot Planner
- 2-3 Pencils with eraser
- 12 pack colored pencils
- Highlighter
- Lined paper

Tracking Grades: At the middle school level students are required to take the lead role in tracking their progress in class, so there is a shared responsibility between teachers, parents and the student to check grades for accuracy and to take steps to address missed work in a timely way to avoid failing.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism: Work assigned to students must be completed in an honest manner. This means doing one's own work. In cases where students are copying assignments BOTH students will receive a zero on the assignment as well as be referred for disciplinary action. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of somebody else's words or ideas. Because of electronic formats, plagiarism has never been easier to commit. This issue is fully discussed in Language Arts and Social Studies classes and the science classes ascribe to the same expectation for citing sources on all assignments. Please consult the documents distributed in Social Studies if you have questions on properly citing resources.

Science Symposium: This event, formerly known as Science Fair, is the culminating school-wide science event. 7th grade students will choose between an invention and a scientific method project to complete at home but with support from school. Projects are presented at the class level and must qualify for the school event. The best projects at the school level represent Pine at the regional science and invention fair in the spring.

Patriot Planner: This is a critical tool for success for students this year. The planner is a required element of all classes and will help students stay organized and increase communication between school and home daily. Please ask your child to show it to you regularly. In addition, helpful information about school policies, sports, dress code, etc. are included for your reference throughout the year.

Please keep this page at home for your reference during the year. Thank you!

Science Teacher _____

Class Period _____

Please detach this portion and return to the science teacher by Friday, August 31, 2012

I have read all of classroom expectations for this class, including the rules and procedures. I know if I have any questions, I can speak to my teacher or even send him/her an email. I understand that this is a standards-based or activity-based learning experience, which means that on-time attendance and productive participation are critically important to be successful. Pine Middle School attendance/tardy policies are enforced. I know I am responsible for following these requirements while being a student in the class.

Student Name printed

Signature

Date

I have read and reviewed, with my child, all of classroom expectations for this class, including the rules and procedures. I know if I have any questions, I can contact my child's teacher at 689-2550 or even send him/her an email. I understand that this is a standards-based or activity-based learning experience, which means that on-time attendance and productive participation are critically important to be successful. Pine Middle School attendance/tardy policies are enforced. I know my child is responsible for following these requirements while being a student in the class.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Preferred contact phone number

