

7th Grade Science Course Syllabus 2015-16

Mr. Christopher J. Hanson

christopher.hanson1@eu.dodea.edu

Class Website: <http://mrhansons7thgradescience.weebly.com/index.html>

Naples American Middle/High School

Room 209A

Office Phone Number: 081.811.4061 or DSN 629.4061

Office Hours: By appointment available from 7:00 am – 7:50 am and 2:25 pm – 2:55 pm

Course Description

Over the next school year, this course will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Biological, Ecological, Human Biological and Physiological, and Chemical sciences through more complex investigations and explanations. You will develop your investigative skills by generating your own questions, recognizing and explaining the relationships among variables, and critiquing the conclusions that are drawn from scientific investigations. You will explore the science of the following topics: Cells and Heredity (structure and function of cells and heredity), Human Body Systems and Disease (functions and interconnections within the human body and the breakdown of these functions due to disease), Ecology: The Biotic and Abiotic Environment (interactions and responses between biotic and abiotic indicators and organisms), and The Chemical Nature of Matter (classifications and properties of matter and changes in matter). This course is based on a rich and wide variety of learning experiences that will actively engage students and accommodate a broad range of student learning styles through the use of various science materials and technology. Mr. Hanson will use the following approach to Inquiry:

<i>Engagement</i>	Object, event or question used to engage students. Connections facilitated between what students know and can do.
<i>Exploration</i>	Objects and phenomena are explored. Hands-on activities, with guidance.
<i>Explanation</i>	Students explain their understanding of concepts and processes. New concepts and skills are introduced as conceptual clarity and cohesion are sought.
<i>Elaboration</i>	Activities allow students to apply concepts in contexts, and build on or extend understanding and skill.
<i>Evaluation</i>	Students assess their knowledge, skills and abilities. Activities permit evaluation of student development and lesson effectiveness.

It is important that students are able to apply their learning. This is what standardized tests and the real world is looking for: those who can think critically and solve problems. Together, we will learn the various tools of Science and also learn how to apply them to real-world situations.

Materials

Textbook: Glencoe McGraw-Hill Science, Level Green

Each student will receive a textbook to take and **LEAVE** at home. You are responsible for this text and any damages or loss/theft of the textbook will result in purchasing a new replacement.

Binder: One large 3-ring binder that will be used for all your courses. (*On page 6 are **Binder Guidelines***).

Notebook dividers: One for each course.

Pencils and correcting pens: Students are expected to do all Science work in pencil.

Paper: An ample supply of loose-leaf notebook paper.

Journal: Students will be Journaling online using Google Documents and their own Google Drives.

Planner: An agenda planner of some kind is required. We recommend you purchase the school planner for \$7.

Grading Policy: DoDEA Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Mr. Hanson's Grading Policy

40% for Tests and Quizzes
20% Laboratory Work/Projects/Participation
20% Homework
20% Classwork/Journal

Mr. Hanson's Science Class Website

Students are required to use the website (<http://mrhansons7thgradescience.weebly.com/index.html>). The website contains everything students need to be successful in my class. Links are provided for the syllabus, class management, contact form, requirements for the science journal, labs, etc. On the Science 7 tab students will be able to see their 2015-2016 assignments. Each assignment is given a detailed description and instructions on how to complete it. The date of the assignment and due dates are always provided. Students can access their assignments anywhere they have computer access.

Assessment

Grades will be based on total points earned out of total points possible. Students are required to SHOW THEIR WORK as the conceptual understanding and scientific process is more important than the answer. Credit will be awarded based on the student's understanding and application of Science concepts. Students will be allowed to demonstrate how well they are making sense of Science in many ways.

Participation (10 points periodically)

Participation encompasses coming to class prepared with the appropriate materials, maintaining their assignments in their agenda planners, and participating in class discussions and group or individual work. They rate themselves at the end of each week on how well they participated throughout the week. Each class a student partner team will be chosen to research a current news event related to Science. This student team will then present their news to the class using the SmartBoard. By the end of the quarter, all partner teams will have presented. This is will be factored in as a participate grade. On page 5 is a rubric for grading participation.

Journals (Points vary)

It is very important to communicate Science in writing. Students will use Google Documents and their Google Drive to Journal. Therefore, journals also figure into the grade. Journals are used for problem solving, communicating and understanding, and summarizing concepts learned. Journals will be graded periodically. On page 5 is a rubric for grading journals.

Homework (Points vary)

Homework assignments offer students an opportunity to think about Science more in depth. Homework assignments are very important. Some homework assignments will be completed using www.quia.com/web. Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of Science vocabulary and concepts.

Vocabulary (Points vary)

Understanding Scientific terminology is necessary for developing Scientific understanding. Students will periodically be given vocabulary words to list and define and will also be expected to use the terms in our discussions.

Quizzes (Points vary)

Most of the quizzes will be completed using www.quia.com/web. Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of Science concepts.

Tests (Points vary)

At the end of each topic studied, an individual test is given. This serves as an opportunity for students to show what they, as individuals, have learned from the specific Science topic. Most tests will be given using www.quia.com/web. Questions on tests will be taken from homework assignments, labs, vocabulary, and quizzes, so students have seen, used, and studied the material extensively before each test.

Projects (Points vary)

Students will be assigned various projects throughout the year that connect Science to other courses. Rubrics will be provided for these, outlining the requirements for each project. Students may have individual projects, group projects, or even class projects. I will be coordinating with the Math, Geography, and Language Arts departments on these.

Progress Reports

Besides mid-quarter progress reports, students will periodically be given progress reports that must be signed by the parent/guardian. I will also frequently email home progress reports from Gradespeed. All students and parents are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to have a Gradespeed account and access it frequently as this is where I update all grades. If you are having problems with your account or need to sign up for an account, please contact Evelyn Norwood, our school educational technologist, at evelyn.norwood@eu.dodea.edu.

Lab Safety Contract

Students will go over the Lab Safety rules and policies in class and will sign the Lab Safety Contract. Mr. Hanson will keep this on file. If student violates the contract, they will not be able to participate in the next upcoming lab.

Homework

All assignments will be posted on my SmartBoard at the beginning of every class. Students are required to write their homework assignments down in their Agenda Planners. All assignments can also be found on the class website. If a student is absent, they will need to check the website for the assignment, contact Mr. Hanson, or ask another student. Homework will be assigned at some point during the week when we meet for class. Some days, students may be able to finish in class, most days not. Homework will be graded based upon completion. Advisories and tutoring sessions are excellent times to ask for help on homework. If you miss this class, *you* are responsible for the assignment we had that day and it is *your* responsibility to check with me, on Gradespeed, and on my Weebly Website to see what you missed. If you need to make up a test or quiz, be sure to see me to arrange a date and time.

Late Work Policy

Full credit will be awarded for fully-completed assignments submitted on time on the due date. Assignments turned in after the appropriate time on the due date will receive a 10% deduction for each day that it is late. No credit will be awarded for work submitted after three class periods. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXCUSED ABSENCES for sickness, medical appointments, etc. Please let me know and I will give you additional time to complete your assignments. If you are going on a trip, you parents must complete the Pre-Arranged Extended Absence Form. Our front desk has this form for students to complete. Please let me know as soon as possible of extended trips, because in most cases, I can give you your homework assignments before you leave, and you can hand them in when you return.

Tutoring/Extra Help

I will be available to help students before and after school on some days and during advisory. Advisory is the best option: use it wisely and to your advantage!

Classroom Management

All students are expected to follow the NMHS rules. In addition, my specific classroom rules are as follows:

- Be respectful
- Be on time
- Be prepared to learn
- No food (including gum) or drinks allowed (water is ok)
- ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES OR PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED IN MY CLASS.
- If you cause a problem in my class, or in the school, I will do something. What I will do will depend on that special 7th grader and the unique circumstances in which they caused the problem.

My classes are very disciplined and I have very high expectations for each of my students. Class starts on time, and I insure that students are challenged and engaged every moment they are in my class until the bell rings to dismiss them.

Consequences:

- Verbal warning (if behavior continues)
- Notify parents (if behavior continues)
- Detention (if behavior continues)
- Office referral (To the Administrators office)

Plagiarism Policy

Students who are found engaged in plagiarism of their assignments. Copying material from other students, or copying and pasting large amounts of text into their assignments, will receive a zero for the assignment and be referred to the counselor or administration at the school.

Course Outline

It is important to note that this is a general outline. Topics may spill over into the next quarter if more attention to them is needed or changed around if needed.

Quarter 1

- CH 1: The Nature of Science
- CH 2: Measurement
- CH 3: Cells
- CH 4: Cell Processes
- CH 5: Plant Processes
- CH 6: Respiration and Excretion
- CH 7: Animal Behavior

Quarter 2

- CH 8: Cell Reproduction
- CH 9: Plant Reproduction
- CH 10 Regulation and Reproduction
- CH 11: Heredity
- CH 12: Interactions of Life (Biotic Environment)
- CH 13: The Nonliving (Abiotic) Environment

Quarter 3

Human Body Systems and Disease:

- Human Body structure and function: cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems
- Major Body Systems: Circulatory, respiratory, digestive, excretory, muscular, skeletal, nervous, endocrine, immune, and reproductive systems.
- Infectious/non-infectious diseases and their affect on the human body.

Quarter 4

- CH 18: Matter
- CH 19: Properties and Changes of Matter

Standards

Participation Grading Sheet

Think about how well you participated in class this week. Answer the following questions, as they will help you give yourself a fair participation grade for this week.

- Did you participate in discussions and contribute to group work?
- Did you come prepared to class, having done your homework, so that you could ask questions?
- Did you ask questions when you didn't understand?
- Did you listen to others?
- Did you come prepared to class with your Science Journal, loose-leaf paper, and pencils?
- Did you bring your agenda planner to class and record all assignments?

Give yourself a 5 if you answered yes to all of the questions. Hooray for you!

Give yourself a 4 if you answered yes to most of the questions.

Give yourself a 3 if you answered yes to a few of the questions.

If you answered no to several of these, give yourself a 2 and rethink your role in this class or talk to Mr. Hanson.

I grade myself a _____ for this week. Signature _____

Journal Grading Sheet

- 5 Effectively communicates thoughts
 Uses appropriate vocabulary
 Uses a variety of strategies to solve Science problems
 Journal is well organized and the entries are labeled and dated
- 4 Effective in communicating your thoughts most of the time
 Uses appropriate vocabulary some of the time
 Uses some different strategies when understanding Science concepts
 Journal is fairly well organized and entries are labeled and dated
- 3 Attempts to communicate thoughts but entries are unclear at times
 Uses some appropriate vocabulary
 More strategies are needed in understanding Science concepts
 Journal needs to be organized with the entries labeled and dated
- 2 Please see me

Binder Guidelines

Students will be required to have a 3-ring binder (2" or 3" rings with pocket inserts) containing the following:

- five to six colored dividers with tabs to separate each academic class
- zipper pouch to store supplies (3-hole punched heavy duty zip-lock bags also work)
- two or more pens
- two or more sharpened pencils
- filler paper (some notebook paper is now available in Cornell note style)
- agenda planner
- erasers
- highlighters
- one or two folders that are three-hole-punched (for paper without holes)

Student binder should be organized in the following manner:

- a) Zippered pouch
- b) Agenda planner
- c) Filler Paper
- d) Subject dividers with tabs, one for each class

Each subsequent section in the binder should have these parts in this order:

- 1) Divider (labeled by subject name)
- 2) Current Cornell notes
- 3) Handouts
- 4) Tests
- 5) Older notes
- 6) Blank paper

Binders will be checked periodically at unannounced times. Students will be given a homework grade for keeping their binder organized.

Please return this to Mr. Hanson:

Student Name: _____

(I will pass this form out to students on the first day of class to bring home. Please insure you child brings this into Mr. Hanson as soon as possible)

Please review the syllabus at Mr. Hanson's 7th Grade Science Class Website:

<http://mrhansons7thgradescience.weebly.com/index.html> with your parents. By signing below, you are making a commitment to keep your binder organized. Students should have their binder organized and ready to use by Tuesday, September 2nd.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Parents Printed Names: _____

Parent Email Address _____

Alternate Parent E-mail Address _____

Parent Contact Phone Numbers: _____

Parents, I look forward to an awesome year for your kids! If you have any questions or concerns at any time during the year, please feel free to contact me

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Hanson