

# NWMS Science Department Course Syllabus

**Course Name:** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science

**Course Description:** Learning is focused around hands-on laboratory life science investigations and projects. Students will often work in groups as they build their understanding of basic biology concepts. Classroom activities will include writing, conducting labs/ investigations, engineering challenges, projects, discussions, working in groups, and reading non-fiction materials. You will also build your skills in problem solving, mathematics, language arts, and computers/technology.

**Course Resources:**

- StemScopes (online text and curriculum resources) <http://tinyurl.com/ohstemscopes>
- Variety of other online resources
- Student journal constructed in class

**Course Outline/Instructional Units:**

In this class, students begin by asking, "What is life?" leading to the cell, followed by making detailed observations of plant and animal cells. Students are instructed in use of a microscope. Students will investigate cells, principles of heredity and genetics, populations and ecosystems, the unifying theory in biology – evolution, and human body systems. Instruction is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as adopted by the state of Washington.

**Grading:**

**NWMS Grade Scale**

**Grade Categories and Weighting – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science:**

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93% and above
A-	90% - 92%
B+	88% - 89%
B	83% - 87%
B-	80% - 82%
C+	78% - 79%
C	73% - 77%
C-	70% - 72%
D+	68% - 69%
D	60% - 67%
F	50% - 59%
Category	Percent of overall grade
<b>Summative Assessment:</b> showing what you know through meeting standards (quizzes, tests, labs, projects)	<b>60%</b>
<b>Formative Assessment:</b> In-class assignments, homework, quizzes, rough drafts, intermediate steps	<b>30%</b>
<b>Work Habits:</b> PRIDE, participation, timeliness	<b>10%</b>

**Extra Help:**

NWMS expects all students to meet the learning targets and earn passing grades in their classes. For students who need more time or individualized instruction to be successful, opportunities for extra help are available. Students are encouraged to seek extra help on their own as soon as they recognize that they are struggling. Also, teachers may assign students to come in for extra help when they see a student falling behind or struggling.

Teachers are available before and after school to provide extra help for students on a regular basis. Teachers will provide a schedule of extra help times that they will be available in their classroom. Special arrangements can be made by contacting the teacher directly via email or phone.

**NWMS Plagiarism Policy:**

Any student, who knowingly turns in any work that has been done by someone other than himself or herself, and fraudulently represents it as his/her own, shall be considered to have cheated. Cheating also includes: aiding someone else in cheating, the use or preparation of written, pictorial, or other materials not authorized by the instructor during a test or assignment, the use of testing materials obtained previous to the test date, or plagiarism of any kind. Refer to individual teachers expectations for each class violation. Students found cheating will also be subject to an office referral, which could result in a suspension.

**Grade Reporting**

Students and parents can check grades at any time online through Family Access (contact the Main Office for help accessing Family Access).

- Teachers will update grades at least every 2 weeks.
- Progress reports will be available every quarter (9 weeks) through Family Access. If you do not have online access, contact the Main Office for a hard copy of the progress report.
- Report cards (official grades) are produced at the end of each semester (18 weeks), and are available through Family Access. If you do not have online access, contact the Main Office for a hard copy of the progress report.

**Re-Do Policy**

Work assigned in class is important for learning and to determine student progress. Students are expected to complete ALL major assignments to standard, even if they turn in the work late or need to re-do the work.

Late work will be accepted, and the grade may be reduced to reflect poor work habits. Work turned in on time and demonstrating full effort may be re-done for up to full credit. In order to re-do part or all of a major assignment (tests, lab reports, and projects... NOT DAILY WORK), the student must:

1. Talk with the teacher to understand what needs to be done for re-do.
2. Demonstrate effort to improve or re-learn the material (determined by the teacher).
3. Complete the revised work within 2 weeks of receiving the original graded work.