**Course Syllabus**

***Swift Creek Middle School***

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**Swift Creek**

**8th Grade Comprehensive Science**

***Choosing Excellence Every Day***

Course #: 20021000

Link to Florida Standards (NGSSS): <http://www.cpalms.org/Standards/FLStandardSearch.aspx>

Link to Common Core Standards (CCC): <http://www.corestandards.org>

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| **COURSE INSTRUCTOR** | **NAME** | | Mrs. Ashley Murphy |
| **EMAIL ADDRESS** | | murphya@leonschools.net |
| **WEBSITE** | | Murphyscience.weebly.com |
| **CONTACT INFO** | | Email is best. If email is unavailable, please leave your name, a call-back number, and a short message with the school receptionist. Your call will be returned at the first opportunity. |
| **COURSE DESCRIPTION** | **This is a comprehensive science class that will give your student an overview of many specific scientific fields. The purpose of this course is to prepare students for high-school level classes through the introduction of a broad variety of scientific terms and concepts. Students will be expected to perform at a level that shows that they are making progress towards high school readiness.**  **1st 9-Week Grading Period Content Outline**  We will being the course learning about the **practice of science, the basis of scientific knowledge, and the roles of theories, laws, hypotheses, and models in science** We use this knowledge as we investigate **Earth and Space science, the solar system, seasons, and space exploration.**  **2nd 9-Week Grading Period Content Outline**  Students will continue to explore **Earth and Space science, the solar system, seasons, and space exploration.**  **3rd 9-Week Grading Period Content Outline**  We will examine physical science, **specifically properties of matter and chemistry**. Additionally, students will review all major concepts from 6th and 7th grade science in order to prepare for the FCAT as well as for high school biology.  **4th 9-Week Grading Period Content Outline**  After the FCAT, students will begin learning basic chemistry needed to understand photosynthesis and cellular respiration as we look forward to high school biology. | | |
| **COURSE RESOURCES** | **TEXTBOOK** | Glencoe iScience Book 3 | |
| **MATERIALS** | Students must bring these items to class **EVERY DAY** to be prepared for science class:   1. Writing utensil (pencil or black/blue pen, please no red or metallic ink!) 2. Notebook paper (loose-leaf; not torn from a spiral). 3. Science Notebook/Portfolio (1-inch, 3 ring binder with pockets and dividers) which may be left in the classroom or taken home each day 4. **Planner** (for daily documentation of assignments and homework) | |
| **FEES** | In this science course, your student will be participating in the following labs: Gummy Stretch Lab, Moon Models, Expanding Galaxies, Lunar Lander, Conservation of Mass, Reason For Seasons, Electromagnetic Spectrum Fish Lab, Oobleck, Mixtures and Solutions Trail Mix, Sink or Float, Acid and Base ADI, Alka-Seltzer Chemical Reactions Lab, Gardening. Please advise that labs are subject to change based on curriculum progression and student performance throughout the year. In order to purchase the materials needed for these labs, a $5.00 science lab fee will be collected each semester from every student. Please send in $5.00 to your child’s science teacher for this semester only. Additional collection will be made at the beginning of the second semester if needed. Thank you! | |
| **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS** | **All Swift Creek Middle School teachers expect students to adhere to the Leon County Schools Attendance Policy and Student Code of Conduct, which includes the dress code, and expectations of academic integrity such as cheating and plagiarism. These policies can be found on the Leon County Schools website at** [**www.leon.k12.fl.us**](http://www.leon.k12.fl.us)**, the school website at** [**www.swiftcreek.leon.k12.fl.us**](http://www.swiftcreek.leon.k12.fl.us)**, and in the agenda book distributed to each student.**  **Teacher Expectations:**  Student Rights and Responsibilities  I have the right:  \* to learn while in school.  \* to fair and equal treatment.  \* to learn in a safe place.  I have the responsibility:  \* to obey school and classroom rules.  \* to treat adults and peers with respect.  \* to listen and not talk when the teacher is talking.  \* to be prepared for class, participate in classroom activities, and complete  assignments given by my teachers.  \* to not distract others from learning.  **Student Rights and Responsibilities will be implemented. Disciplinary steps will be followed if expectations are not followed. Students will record infractions in a Discipline Log which will be used to keep track of student behavior. Consequences may include “No Howl-Out”, detention, and/or discipline referral. Students’ citizenship grade will reflect their behavior and participation in classroom activities and group work. In order for a student to receive a 4 in citizenship, the student will have to show extra-ordinary citizenship in the everyday classroom: helping others, cooperating, not speaking out of turn, going above and beyond the regular student expectations in an exceptional manner.** | | |
| **GRADING POLICY** | **Student grades in this course will be weighted by category as follows:**  **50% – Formal Assessments** (Tests, Quizzes, Standard-Checks)  **25% – Investigations** (Lab Reports, Arguments, Lab Assignments, Group Projects)  **25% – Notebook/Portfolio** (Daily Assignments, Bellwork) | | |
| **GRADING SCALE** | **In accordance with Leon County School Board policy, 9-wk grades will be assigned as follows:**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Letter Grade** | **Numerical Grade** | **Meaning of Grade** | | **A** | 90-100 | *The student displays mastery of course content.* | | **B** | 80-89 | *The student has a good understanding of course content. There is room for student improvement.* | | **C** | 70-79 | *The student is successful with most assignments. Gaps may exist in the understanding of difficult topics. Tutorials and/or attention to good study habits may be necessary.* | | **D** | 60-69 | *The student is having difficulty with course content; assistance is necessary for student improvement.* | | **F** | 0-59 | *The student has major difficulty with course content. Immediate intervention is necessary.* | | | |
| **HOMEWORK** | Homework in this course will consist mostly of writing lab reports and arguments. Numbered assignments will rarely be assigned as homework, but **any work not finished in class should be completed at home**. Students will present their notebook for grading at the end of each unit. | | |
| **MAKE-UP WORK PROCEDURES** | **Leon County School Board Policy allows students to make up work within a reasonable amount of time after returning to school following an excused absence. The allotted time will be determined by district policy and communicated by the teacher to both parent(s) and the student.**  Students will have access to make-up work via the class website. Students who are sick will have the number of days they are out to complete their assignments. For example, a student who is out Wednesday will have until Friday to turn in work due Thursday. This does not apply to homework due the day of the absence. Mrs. Murphy will make an effort to accommodate students with pre-approved absences; due dates will be on a case by case basis. | | |
| **LATE WORK POLICY** | Major projects and lab reports will have points deducted each day they are late. Notebook assignments may be completed or refined until the student is pleased with his/her grade throughout the nine weeks (it is the student’s responsibility to submit assignments for grading). | | |
| **ASSIGNMENT**  **RE-DO POLICY & PROCEDURES** | Students may not retake tests or re-do classwork or projects. There may be test correction opportunities or redemption assignments available if the entire class is struggling or if a student has a demonstrated need (not studying is not demonstrated need). | | |
| **EXTRA HELP OPPORTUNITIES** | Students can always receive extra help. Mrs. Murphy is available at a variety of times by appointments before and after school. | | |

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**Mrs. Murphy’s Science Classroom Procedures**

**Entering the classroom**

1. You must enter the classroom quietly, on time, and with all the necessary materials.
2. Grab your notebook from the shelf and go directly to your assigned seat.
3. When in your seat:
   1. Take out the necessary materials needed for class,
   2. Complete your Bellwork according to the Bellwork procedures. The Bellwork will always be found on the front board.
   3. Copy your class work and homework assignments into your planner (found on the back board).
   4. If there is no daily assignment listed on the board, follow Mrs. Murphy’s instructions.

**Communication**

1. *When Mrs. Murphy speaks, you listen!!* \*\*\* When Mrs. Murphy requests attention, she will raise her hand.
2. Immediately pause your conversation. This shows respect.
3. Hold your hand up and show eye contact. This shows attention.
4. *Asking for permission*
   1. Always raise your hand for permission to speak or to get out of your seat. Wait for a response from your teacher. You should not call out her name or cause a commotion at your seat.
   2. You should not be out of your seat for any reason during the class period unless otherwise specified (e.g. labs, emergencies, group work).
   3. Put trash away at the end of the period on your way out of the classroom, unless it is a used Kleenex. Please do not “throw” trash into the trash cans from your seat!! PLEASE RECYCLE!
   4. Please use appropriate timing if asking for permission to use a pass. During a lecture, discussion, or notes is not the appropriate time to use the restroom, get a drink, or go to your locker.

**Leaving the classroom**

1. The bell does not dismiss you!
2. Do not pack up your belongings until told to do so by Mrs. Murphy.
3. Place table bins nice and neatly on the middle of the tables.
4. Remain in your seats and quiet.
5. Mrs. Murphy will dismiss you when everyone is seated, packed up, and quiet.
6. When dismissed, stand up, **push your chair under the table**, make sure your group table and floor is clean of all trash and clutter, and leave quietly through the hallway door.
7. If you are in my classroom last period of the day, you will be asked to place the chairs on top of the tables. Please put up all chairs!

**Attendance**

1. All make-up work must be turned in within acceptable time frames. See school policies!
2. Make sure you hand your make-up work to Mrs. Murphy during class.
3. It is your responsibility to get all your make-up work upon your return to school. You can email Mrs. Murphy OR, you can call a friend for the assignment and have it ready when you return.

**Working in Groups**

1. Mrs. Murphy will ***always*** set up groups.
2. No complaining!
3. Everyone in the group should put forth the effort to complete the task.
4. Use your group members to help in solving problems before you ask your teacher.
5. Remember: G-et along, R-espect others, O-n task, U-se quiet voices, P-articipate, S-tay in group!