Swift Creek Middle School Course Syllabus

2012-2013

Mrs. Ashley Murphy

**8th Grade Science: 2002-1000**

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**Curriculum**

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.

**Content Overview**

Leon County Schools has outlined a pacing guide for this course which will be followed throughout the year. The pacing guide may not be perfect for each of my classes, so we may not always be on pace with the pacing guide. I anticipate that some subjects will be more difficult than the guide suggests, and we will spend a few more days on those. Conversely, some subjects may come easily to my students and we will be able to move on from them quickly. The first nine weeks will be spent exploring 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, space exploration, and the effect of space exploration on Florida** in the second nine weeks. In the third nine weeks, we will examine physical science, **specifically properties of matter and chemistry**. After the third nine weeks, we will take a break from the pacing guide to **review all middle school science concepts for the FCAT.** Finally, we will end our year looking forward to high school biology as we study **photosynthesis and cellular respiration.**

**Standards**

This course is designed in compliance with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Biology.

<http://www.floridastandards.org/Courses/PublicPreviewCourse60.aspx>

Integrated into these standards are Common Core standards for Language Arts and Mathematics. These standards emphasize writing, reading, and reasoning in all courses. In this course, we will use reading, writing, and mathematic reasoning to understand, explain, and evaluate scientific topics.

**Book**

We will be using the Glencoe Florida Course Three iScience textbook. We will have a class set to use during school hours, and each student will receive a means to access the book via the internet at home. Accommodations will be made for students without internet access.

**Grading**

Student grades will be based on a total point scale. In order for students to receive full credit, work must be **turned in on time**.

Grades will be based on the following categories: Assessments, Classwork/Labs, Homework Projects, and Bellwork. Students scoring **lower than a 70%** on a TEST in the assessments category have one chance to retake the assessment. The highest grade will be used. **The final grade shall not exceed a 70%.** This does not apply to mid-terms and finals. To use this opportunity, students must fill out an Academic Opportunity for Improvement form obtained from Mrs. Murphy.

**Scale**: A: 100-90%, B: 89-80%, C: 79-70%, D: 69-60%, F: Below 60%

**Rules**

Each student will receive a copy of classroom rules to keep in his/her science binder. Rules will also be posted in the classroom. Should a student violate one of these rules, disciplinary action will be taken. Students will record offenses in the Discipline Log which is used to track student behavior. Consequences for violating rules may include loss of “Howl Out” privileges, detention, or a discipline referral. Students’ citizenship grades reflect their behavior and participation in class, this includes whole class, group, and individual work. Students who wish to receive a 4 for citizenship must go above and beyond “good” behavior by helping others, cooperating, not speaking out of turn, and making positive contributions to the classroom learning environment.

1. Respect everyone
   1. Work to solve problems constructively, without violence or abuse
   2. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self
2. Begin Bellwork immediately upon sitting down, NOT after the bell rings
3. Follow instructions the first time given
4. Participate positively in class
5. Stay on task
6. Do your best work

**Students must also follow general Swift Creek rules:**

1. Cell phones, backpacks, and gum are not permitted in the classroom.
2. Students must have hall passes (in planner) to leave the classroom
3. Please see the planner for additional school rules

**Disclaimer**

Teacher has the right to amend the syllabus if needed. Students will be notified of changes in class.