

Wallenpaupack Area School District

Wallenpaupack Area Middle School

Course Title: 7th Grade Life Science

Length of Course: 2 semesters

District Policies:

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the success of an educational community. Students are responsible for learning and upholding professional standards of research, writing, assessment, and ethics in their areas of study. Written or other work which students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior, is prohibited.

Assessment:

The goal of grading is to report student progress and achievement to the parents to strengthen the home-school connection. The grade should accurately reflect the student's performance in mastering the PA Standards and the WASD curriculum.

Attendance:

Regular school attendance is vitally important to academic success. Not only does attendance reinforce and enrich the learning process; it also establishes patterns and attitudes that will carry forward into adult work habits. Regular, consistent attendance is a prerequisite to successful school life. Children should be absent only in cases of illness or emergency.

Special Education:

Our commitment to each student is to ensure a free appropriate public education which begins with the general education setting, with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services. Inclusive education describes the successful education of all students with the appropriate supports and services to participate in and benefit from the general classroom settings and other educational environments.

Course Description: The course includes units on scientific methods and the characteristics of living things as well as a survey of the six major kingdoms of organisms comparing similarities and differences between living things. Interactions between living things and their environment will be explored as part of a unit on ecology.

Pennsylvania State Standards: All WAMS courses are aligned to the PA State Standards and Common Core Standards, where applicable.

Course Objectives:

Student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Students will be able to identify the 6 characteristics of living things and the necessities of life.
2. Students will be able to describe the structure and function of cells as the basis of living organisms.
3. Students will be able to explain cellular processes and reproduction.
4. Students will be able to explain how probability influences characteristics in living things and how characteristics are used for classification.
5. Students will be able to compare and contrast the cellular structure in bacteria, viruses and other organisms.
6. Students will be able to characterize the Protist and Fungi Kingdoms.
7. Students will be able to classify types of plants and explain their structure and function.
8. Students will be able to characterize and classify organisms in the Animal Kingdom.
9. Students will be able to identify the biotic and abiotic parts of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Student Responsibilities:

Attendance expectations: Attendance is essential to reaching your full potential in understanding science concepts.

Homework expectations: Assigned homework is expected to be completed to reinforce skills and concepts taught.

Make-up work: Number of days absent equals the number of days to make up missed work.

Late work: Partial credit may be given for late work. It is the student’s responsibility to show the work to the teacher for credit. See your teacher for classroom policy.

Assessment: Assignments (classwork and homework) = 20%, quizzes = 40%, tests and projects = 40%.

Grading components:

Marking Period 1 Grade: 23% of final grade

Marking Period 2 Grade: 23% of final grade

Marking Period 3 Grade: 23% of final grade

Marking Period 4 Grade: 23% of final grade

Final Exam Grade: 8% of final grade

Content Pacing Guide: The following pacing guide is a general guideline and the instructional content/timeframe may vary.

Topic	Major Assignments	Estimated Timeframe (Classes)
Characteristics of life	Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	3 weeks
Microscopes	Microscope activities	2 weeks
Structure and function of cells	Cell project, Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	4 weeks
Cellular processes and reproduction	Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	3 weeks
Heredity	Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	3 weeks
Genes and gene technology	Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	2 weeks
Classification of living things	Worksheets, homework, dichotomous keys, quizzes, and tests	2 weeks
Prokaryotic Kingdoms, structures and functions	Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	3 weeks
Eukaryotic Kingdoms, structures and functions – protists and fungi	Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	3 weeks
Eukaryotic kingdoms, structures and functions - plants and plant processes	Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	3 weeks
Eukaryotic kingdoms, structures and functions -animals	Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	3 weeks
Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems	Worksheets, homework, lab activities, quizzes, and tests	3 weeks
7th grade science year summary	Final review and exam	1 week