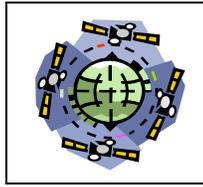


## Seventh Grade Science

Teacher: Laurie Mueller/Room 305

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### Course Description:

You will be learning a lot in Seventh grade Science this year as you study 3 BIG units. **The first unit is LIGHT.** Some of the questions we will work to answer are:

- What is light?
- Where does light come from?
- How does light behave?
- What are some of the interesting ways light is used?
- Why do we see colors?
- How does light travel?

Some of the materials you will work with are lenses, mirrors (including two way mirrors), prisms, pinhole cameras and spectra-scopes. You will learn to draw and read ray diagrams as a way of understanding and explaining why we see things as we do.

**The second unit is Catastrophic Events** which takes a look at how energy moves through different parts of the earth and causes earth-changing events like storms, earthquakes and volcanoes. Some of the topics you will learn about are: the earth's atmosphere, why the wind blows, how clouds form, what air pressure is, and how ocean currents affect weather. You will also learn about plate tectonics and how different types of rock form. We rely heavily on the use of models in this unit as well as in the Earth and Space unit.

In the **Earth in Space unit** you learn how the Earth's position in our solar system is responsible for interesting and predictable events such as the changing shape of the moon, eclipses, seasons and tides. We will also do some fun investigations to help us understand gravity and how it affects objects in motion.

Throughout the year, you will be required to think about what you know before starting any new learning. We will then spend time conducting investigations or using models to test your ideas. In the end, I want you to be able to convince me, as well as yourself, that your ideas make sense and can be supported with good reasoning and evidence. Science is all about being able to prove your ideas. In order to have convincing "proof" you must be a good scientist, so throughout the year you will also be fine tuning your *scientific process* skills (asking a "testable" question, controlling variables carefully, collecting data or making careful observations, and drawing a logical conclusion).

### Grading:

You will be assessed in the following areas this year (categories in Skyward):

- Investigations (procedure writing, predicting, identifying variables, writing questions, collecting and analyzing data, making observations, and writing conclusions )
- Physical Science (concepts from our Light unit)
- Earth in Space (concepts from our Earth in Space unit and Catastrophic Events units)
- Success attributes (how well you do your job as a student)

## Homework

You will occasionally be asked to share some of your learning with someone at home or to review for a quiz or test. Of course, the more you talk about what we are doing and learning in science at home, the more successful you will be.

## Absences and Late Work

It is your responsibility to find out what you missed during an absence. The best way to do this is to talk to Ms. Mueller either before school or during lunch **on the day you return to school**. Sometimes it may be necessary to stay after school in order to make-up missed lab investigations. If you miss an investigation, you will need to make it up **within 7 days** from the date it was done in class.

## Textbooks

We have 3 textbooks, one for each of the different major units. These books contain the objectives and procedures for each inquiry as well as supplemental readings; they are not intended to be reference books for Science. We have a class set of these books that stay in the classroom. Ms. Mueller has a few extra books that are available for checkout if you would like to have a book at home.

***Your composition book is really your text book for this class so keep it organized, up to date and neat.*** It is very important that you have your composition book in class each and every day. Most of the time your composition book will be kept in the classroom but you may take it home whenever you need/want to (as long as you remember to bring it back the next day).

## Classroom Expectations

1. Participate - try your hardest all the time.
2. Work cooperatively with your table group, classmates and teacher (listen and look for ways to make the learning environment the best it can be).
3. Treat all materials/property with care and respect
4. Take responsibility for your learning - ask questions and THINK.

If, at any time, you are feeling confused or that you need extra time/help, please let me know. I am here to help and would be happy to set up some individual time\*\* with you either during lunch or before/after school.

\*\* Please tell me ahead of time if you plan to come in during lunch or before/after school. If I don't know you are coming in, I may be busy in another room and miss you.