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%Mrs. Beth Spradley

Life Science

Davis Emerson Middle School

mespradley@tcss.net

**Welcome**: I would like to welcome you to this year’s science class! I look forward to a great year ahead filled with fun and learning. This letter is to provide both the students and parents with some general information about the seventh grade science course.

**Textbooks**: We will be using the AMSTI curriculum to guide us through science. I will provide each student with an online code to access the book online, and will be making copies for the face to face students in order to keep our students as safe as possible.

**Course Objectives**: This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of life science. These subjects will include the cell, body systems, DNA, heredity and genetics, and ecology. This course will emphasize these concepts in a variety of laboratory experiences, activities, and demonstrations.

**General Topics**:

1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
* Cell Theory and Stucture
* Eukaryotic and Prokaryotic Cells
* Body Systems
1. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
* Abiotic Factors
* Biotic Factors
* Interactions and Adaptions
1. Heredity: Inheritance and Variations of Traits
* Genes
* Traits
* Mutations
1. Unity and Diversity
* Fossils
* Extinction
* Evolution

*Complete standards can be found at* [*https://alex.state.al.us/home.php*](https://alex.state.al.us/home.php)

**Teaching Strategies**:

Stations and centers Individual work Class discussions

Group work Experiments

**Students Activities and Evaluations**:

Active participation Interactive Notebooks

Group projects Class work

Individual projects Tests

Bell ringers Exit slips

**Grading Policy**:

Grades will be based on points earned on tests, quizzes, activities, in-class assignments, and participation. Grades will be entered in iNow in a timely manner and will be available for students to view.

Tests will always be announced at least two days in advance.

Quizzes may or may not be announced.

Many, but not all major projects and assignments are cooperative group efforts. No student will be permitted to jeopardize the group’s performance of an assigned task. Any student who is repeatedly disruptive or who misuses class time or materials will receive a zero and appropriate disciplinary action.

**Late and Make-Up Work**:

In the event of an excused absence, it will be the **student’s responsibility** to collect the work that was missed. They are responsible to check the folders on the board and to copy notes from their classmate’s interactive notebook. Additionally, it is the student’s responsibility to schedule an appropriate time to make up tests and/or quizzes.

Any assignment turned in late will receive deductions. The number of points deducted will depend on the number of points possible.

Any assignments not turned in will be given a grade of zero.

**Materials needed for my class**:

I am very organized, and I believe in strong organizational skills for my students. Therefore, I require:

1. Composition Notebook (we will use 4 of these over the course of the year) to be used for:
* Notes
* Classwork
* Labs/Demonstrations
* Vocabulary
1. Writing utensil (pencil or pen)
2. Additionally, if you would like to donate tissues, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, or paper towels, it would be greatly appreciated.

**Class Rules**:

Be on time and be prepared

Be respectful

Be willing

Follow all directions and school rules

Protect the learning environment

Students are **NEVER** encouraged to duplicate any lab activities or class demonstrations on their own due to possible risks involved.

If you would like to set up a conference, I can be reached at the school at 205-342-2750 or through email. My office hours are during 7th period.

Welcome to Life Science!! Let the learning begin!!

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the information presented in this syllabus.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_