

Kate Collins Middle School 7th Grade Life Science

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

I am very excited to be at KCMS working with your child- this is exactly where I WANT to be! I have shared my passion for teaching with Waynesboro Public Schools for 11 years, and it is a pleasure to share my enthusiasm for science and commitment to personal growth with your child. Please contact me by email or visit my website to find out more about me and the exciting things going on in my classroom!

Instructor: Mrs. Katherine Stevey

E-mail: kstevey@waynesboro.k12.va.us

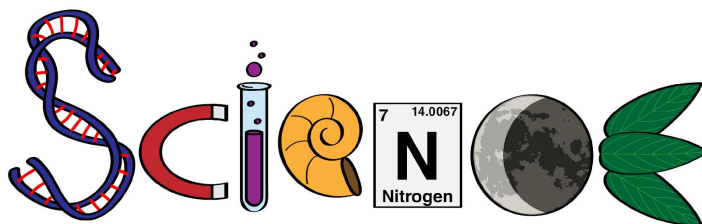
Room #: 705

School Year: 2019-2020

Course: 7th Grade Science

[Click here to visit my website](#)

Or go to <https://steveyscience.weebly.com/>



Course Description

The Life Science standards emphasize a more complex understanding of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Students build on basic principles related to these concepts by exploring the cellular organization and the classification of organisms; the dynamic relationships among organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems; and change as a result of the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation.

Science and Engineering Practices

Engaging in the practices of science and engineering helps students understand how scientific knowledge develops; these include the use of scientific skills and processes to explore the content of science as outlined in the *Science Standards of Learning*. The engineering design practices are an application of the science content while trying to solve a problem or design an object, tool, process or system. These scientific and engineering practices are critical to science instruction and are to be embedded throughout the year.

Sign & Return Page 5 Only.

Course Content

Semester 1:	Semester 2:
Routines, Procedures, Expectations, Course Pretest	Unit 7 Cycles in Nature & Energy Flow 2
Unit 1 Measurement, Tools, Lab Safety, Microscope Use	Unit 8 Populations in a Biological Community
Unit 2 Characteristics of Living Things, Cell Structure & Theory Pt 1	Unit 9 Organisms in an Environment
Unit 3 Cell Structure & Theory Pt 2	Unit 10 Dynamic Organisms
Unit 4 Cell Organization & Systems	Unit 11 Ecosystem Dynamics & Humans
Unit 5 Classification of Organisms	Unit 12 Organism Reproduction & Genetics
Unit 6 Photosynthesis & Cellular Respiration	Unit 13 Organisms Change Over Time
Unit 7 Cycles in Nature & Energy Flow 1	Comprehensive Lab Practical Exam, Review & Course Post Test

Student Evaluation/ Student Assessment**Types of Grades:****Weight in Grade Book:**

Bell Work	10 %
Notebook/ Vocabulary, Notes & Science Journal	20%
In-Class Assignments	30 %
Quizzes & Tests	30%
Labs	10%



Student notebooks purchased by me will be kept in class for daily use by students. All content vocabulary and study guides will be available on my Google Classroom, and updated throughout the year as students need them.

Class Rules & Behavior Expectations

- 1. Respectful** - Be kind with your words and actions. **How?**
 - Raise your hand to speak.
 - Be willing to work with anyone.
- 2. Involved** - Listen and follow directions. **How?**
 - Ask questions when you need clarification.
 - Participate in discussions by adding related comments.
 - Try everything you are asked to do.
 - Complete assignments.
- 3. Responsible** - Handle yourself, classroom supplies and school property with care. **How?**
 - Follow lab safety guidelines set forth in Lab Safety Contract.
 - Take your role seriously.
 - Walk around the classroom quietly.
 - Keep your hands to yourself at all times.
 - Begin Bell Work or activity written on board.

Sign & Return Page 5 Only.

Standards of Student Conduct- From the Waynesboro Public Schools Parent/Student Handbook:

Students have the right to a free public education free from disruption. Any physical or verbal disturbance which interrupts or interferes with teaching and orderly conduct of school activities, is prohibited.

Communication Devices- Students may possess phone, tablet, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or other communications device on school property, including school buses, provided that the device ***must remain off and out of sight during instructional time...***

- Students will place their cell phones in the assigned wall pocket chart of each classroom.
- Students may pick their phones up upon leaving the room after the instructional period ends.
- For safety precautions, students may not use cell phones in the hallways or listen to music.

Classroom Interventions

When a student is not responding to the positive reinforcement, prompting, and shaping systems in place repeatedly, I will implement and log an intervention. An intervention is aimed at finding out the cause of a behavior, reteaching a desired behavior, and discussing solutions with a student and/or a parent.

Example Classroom Interventions**1. Meet with Student**

Discuss solutions. Explain/ reteach and make request for desired behavior and replacement behaviors. I will ask the student to “fix it”, and give time for practice, feedback and continued support/reteaching.

2. Speak with Parent

I will try to speak with a parent by phone if a student is repeatedly disrupting class and not making an effort to meet the request for change. I want to be part of a team that works together to help students become the best they can be.

3. In Class Time-out- all assignments will still need to be completed to receive a grade.**4. Silent lunch.** If a student is not responsive to in-class time out, or repeated prompts for a replacement behavior, and continues to disrupt, he or she will be assigned silent lunch.**5. Out of Class time-out-** in another Science Classroom. Assignments will still need to be completed to receive a grade. This is an option if a student continues to disrupt the class and cause learning to be difficult for themselves and/or others repeatedly.**6. After School Detention**

Sign & Return Page 5 Only.



Missed Classes

Missed Assignments: Upon a student's return from an absence or missed class, it is **his/her** responsibility to ask for and get the make-up work and/or make arrangements with me to stay after school. Study guides, vocabulary cards, links to slides and websites used in class will be posted on my Google Classroom, which can be accessed from a cell phone, computer or tablet with internet or data.

Extra Help

After school help is available on Thursdays beginning after Labor Day. After-school bus schedules will be announced, and I am available ***by appointment*** during this time. **Students will need a signed note from a parent or guardian, stating permission to stay from 3:20-4:00, as well as transportation plans, address and phone number listed.**

Need for Assistance

I would love to get to know you, and form a strong team with you- with your child's best interests in the forefront! I am certain that we want similar things for your child, and would love to talk to you to better understand individual needs and wishes. Please send me an email, or jot down any questions that you have, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Sign & Return Page 5 Only.

(Fill out the form below, and return to school)

I have gone over the Life Science Syllabus in class.

Student signature: _____

I have read the Life Science Syllabus.

Parent signature: _____

Parent email: _____

Is there internet access at home where your child can access Google Classroom and the internet? (This can be done using free apps from the App Store and a cell phone with wifi or data connections.)

Check one:

- Yes, my child is able to access the internet**
- No, my child is not able to access the internet**

Sign & Return Page 5 Only.