



# Course Syllabus

SY 2011-12

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**COURSE TITLE:** Science – Grade 7: Life Science

**PREREQUISITE:** N/A

**DESCRIPTION:** In science, a special emphasis is placed on the research process in all grades. This includes making decisions about the generation and testing of ideas; prediction, measurement, data collection and representation; evaluation of sources of information; collaborative investigation; interpretation and communication of findings; evaluation and verification of findings and considerations relating to the social context of research. Seventh grade Life Science emphasizes a more sophisticated understanding of change, lifecycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Topics include: Classification, cell theory, interdependence of organisms, adaptations within a biome, and biological changes over time. Some sociological principles and genetics are also introduced. Students analyze data collected and identify origins of errors that occur during experimentation.

*Note: Students enrolled in life science courses participate in animal dissection. Students who decline to participate will be offered alternatives to dissection. A student's objection to participating in an animal dissection should be substantiated by a signed note from his or her parent or legal guardian.*

**MAIN TOPICS:** Examine the concept of the cell as the basic unit of life.

Understand the basic needs of plants and animals.

Explore classification systems.

Examine relationships within ecosystems and interactions between members of a population.

Examine effects of heredity and environment on organisms.

Relate chromosomes, genes, and DNA to the passage of hereditary information in all organisms.

Investigate and understand that organisms change over time.

**CREDIT INFO:** N/A