

### Course Description

The 7<sup>th</sup>-grade science course is organized around three components; content, skills and scientific literacy. The content is primarily focused on the earth sciences. Topics include plate tectonics, weathering and erosion, geologic time and mapping. Within each of these topics important science concepts are taught that often overlap with the physical and life sciences. These include such things as heat transfer, evolution and energy transformations. The skills that we work on throughout the year include measurement, data collection and analysis, reading and writing science reports, taking notes and experimentation. The term “scientific literacy” is used in the sense of having students being able to articulate some of the more important issues in science especially those related to the health of the Environment. These issues may include discussions about global warming, cloning, genetically engineered foods, electronic trash and the many problems associated with the “health” of our Planet.

### General Expectations

1. Do your best: This includes all aspects of the curriculum and especially those parts that you may find the most difficult. It could be labs, presentations, reading assignments, homework, notebook organization, your handwriting or tests! Trying your hardest means making mistakes- that’s how we learn best.
2. Come to class prepared:  
3-ringed binder  
Composition journal  
2 pens (black/blue), 2 pencils  
Planner  
Covered Text
3. Be respectful: Be courteous to others at all times. Don’t be a distraction to your classmates. Be respectful of property – your own, your classmates and the schools. ***Ask before you touch!***
4. Demonstrate Responsibility: When you are absent or have missed an assignment check-in with me at 2:15 in room 21 to either turn in work or clarify what’s missing. If for some reason I am not there, do the same the following day. Be persistent and always ask for help.
5. Be safe: Follow class and lab rules. Middle school is a time to develop good science lab safety habits. Treat all substances including water as a potentially dangerous chemical!
6. Communicate: If you are having difficulty with an assignment, first call a friend or ask a parent or sibling for help. If for some reason you are unable to complete an assignment, have a parent (or the babysitter) write a short note in your planner. Remember, however, that you are still responsible for completing the assignment.

### Grading

- Homework
- Tests and quizzes
- Labs
- Projects
- Participation

## Textbook

Prentice Hall Explorer Series

## Homework

Homework is assigned every day with some exceptions. Assignments may include reading an article, answering questions from the text, completing worksheets, typing labs, reviewing notes, organizing one's binder or studying for a test.

- **Assignment Headings:** All assignments are expected to be “headed” with your full name, block the date and a brief description of the assignment. All work should be done on lined loose-leaf paper, written in pencil or pen (blue or black ink only) and in one's neatest handwriting. *Messy or torn assignments or those missing headings will be considered incomplete and should be rewritten and turned in the next day.*
- **Typing** is an option and in some cases may be required for a particular assignment or student. Typing also allows you to save to a homework file – no more lost assignments!
- **Thoroughly answer all questions** with complete sentences and generous supporting detail.
- **Missing or Incomplete:** If an assignment is **missing** or **incomplete**, I will “**stamp**” your planner. The expectation is that you will come to room 21 at 2:15 the following day to turn in the assignment and show me the signed stamp. This will allow you to receive full credit for the assignment.

### Grade 7 Science Topics (sequence may change year to year)

#### Unit 1: Measurement

Topics:	metric system mass	graphing volume	data tables (Excel) <b>density</b>
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#### Unit 2: Inside Earth

Topics:	Earth's interior	heat transfer	<b>plate tectonics</b>
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#### Unit 3: Scientific Method: **Student Projects**

#### Unit 4: Earth's Changing Surface:

Topics:	mapping erosion	models geologic time	weathering
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#### Unit 5: Community Science:

Topics:	Earth's Waters
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#### Ongoing Science:

observation scientific literacy	measurement experimentation	critical thinking open-response
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### Things that you can do or practice at home

1. *Using a ruler to measure in both inches and centimeters.*
2. *Solving math problems using the science/math format – area, volume and density.*
3. *Reviewing the metric system – see notebook reference section or the appendix in the text.*
4. *Helping you to organize your 3-ringed binder.*
5. *Finding and discussing science related articles that could be shared with the class.*