**Seventh Grade Science Syllabus**

Chestnut TAG Middle School

**Teacher:** Mr. Walther

**School Phone:** (413) 750-2333

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**Curriculum:** KnowAtom which is based off the 7th grade Science Standards from DESE

**Communication:** I highly value two-way communication with families, my “door” is always open! This means you can contact me anytime. This year we will be using Dean’s list for communication. You can download the app onto your phone (make sure you download “Deanslist for Families” if it is easier for you to receive text messages than emails. You can also email me anytime, and if there is any new information regarding how to use Dean’s list, I will work to get you that information as soon as possible.

**Course Description:**

Hello students and families! I’m Mr. Walther but you can call me Mr. W if you’d like. I use He/Him/They pronouns but prefer my actual name the most and encourage you to use your peers’ names too instead of general pronouns because it helps build community and connections with each other.

Welcome to 7th grade science at Chestnut TAG! We will be spending our year studying nine interesting topics that span all major scientific disciplines: Physical, Life, Earth and Space, and Engineering. My goal this year is not just to help you succeed in your studies, nor is it solely to help you develop the tools for science. I am determined to empower you to be an independent thinker. Our world right now faces many challenges, and there are many people and living souls who suffer needlessly. The challenges we face as one people will be overcome when we give ourselves the power of critical thinking through science.

 My job is to inspire you and empower you to have a voice and know that you can solve any problem you face with critical thinking, perseverance, and above all, community. We will build our own scientific community together, let’s get to work!

**Course Curriculum:**

**Physical Science *Energy & Matter***

* Unit 1 – Discovering Matter

***Earth’s Place in the Universe & Earth Systems***

* Unit 2 – Earth In Space
* Unit 3 – Ice Age

**Life Science**

***Biological Structures & Functions***

* Unit 4 – Cell Functions

***Ecosystem Dynamics***

* Unit 5 – Landforms
* Unit 6 – Rocky Shores
* Unit 7 – Environmental Science

***Motion & Stability: Forces & Interactions***

***Engineering, Technology & Applications of Science***

* Unit 8 – Mechanical Engineering
* Unit 9 – Civil Engineering

**Supply List**

Science supplies are provided by the district, but occasionally there may be additional items needed and I will always let you know ahead of time what you may need. In general, for successful learning you should have two writing utensils, and a simple notebook to take notes if needed. Your child will be provided with a hard science notebook this year as well as optional science manuals for units, that can also be accessed online. Many assignments can be completed electronically with the hands-on portion for completed in the laboratory, this may be helpful if your child is ever absent or simply does well with computer writing rather than on paper.

**Grading Policy**

Grading is comprised of participations, homework, exit tickets, classwork, lab work, tests, quizzes, and projects. Students should expect regular quizzes, as well as a test at the completion of a unit.

***Weighted Percentages:***

**Assessments 80 %**

* Quizzes, Labs, Investigations – 30%
* Tests (Unit, Midterm, Finals, etc.) – 40%
* Exit Tickets – 10 %

**Work Habits 20 %**

* Classwork – 10 %
* Homework – 10 %

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

**Attendance**

Attendance and participation are required and impact your grade. It is your responsibility to find out what work you may have missed if you are absent. I will always do my best to help you, but we are training to be professionals in the real world and unfortunately out there, rarely are you given do-overs and extensions! Students who are going to miss class should email me letting me know the class(es) they are going to miss. Beyond office hours, I can’t make extra time to help students make up late work, so being proactive here is key!

**Late Work**

If students are absent, they must make up assessments within 1 week of the day they were absent to receive full credit. Students can always submit late work for partial credit by the end of the quarter.

**Preparation**

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for class. Students must come to class with two writing utensils, a charged laptop provided by the district, and any assignments that are due or are in progress. If a laptop is forgotten, a lab manual for the unit we are working on can be provided. You will be taking your school issued laptop to and from school, it is extremely important that you charge your laptop at home the night before returning *and* remember to bring the charger. I recommend you develop routines for remembering to bring things you need, let me know if you’re ever struggling with routines, I can always give suggestions that might work for you as an individual!

**Technology**

Students are only allowed school issued laptops in class. Smart-phones and other devices are not allowed unless you are given expressed permission by me and the parent/guardian to use the phone for data collection with a hands-on experiment. In class, smartphones should be in a closed backpack, not in your pocket.

**Honesty**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any assignment that is proven to be the work of anyone other than the student will be given a zero and will have to meet with administration which could include formal disciplinary action. The bottom line is, it is not difficult to tell when a student has submitted work that is not theirs. When you cheat, you end up losing because you don’t learn anything, and in all likely hood you’ll be caught anyways. Always better to earn a C and learn something, than steal an A and learn nothing!

**Behavior**

Students must follow the procedural expectations of the classroom and treat each other with respect and kindness. Failure to follow these expectations will results in a matrix of consequences as follows; 1: Verbal Warning, 2: Student Conference, 3: Parent Contact, 4: Lunch Detention, 5: Formal Write Up.

In my classroom, to mediate conflict, we will work to use a practice called restorative justice. This means that we focus more on repairing harm that was caused rather than punishing those that made the mistakes. For example, a student who becomes frustrated with an assignment and then takes it out on their peers, would have a conversation about why they were upset and work that out with their peers rather than being disciplined for what they originally said. We all have tough days, and we don’t all love everything we are asked to do *100%* of the time. But *we must* treat each other with respect *100%* of the time. A major goal of mine is to create a peaceful atmosphere in my classroom where love for your fellow human is central.

**Documents**

Students should keep all their work documents, hard copy or electronic, organized. Students are required to create a “Science – Walther” folder on their laptop desktop to store resources and assignments. Students are also encouraged to create “sub folders” within their science folder. Example: Science Walther > Unit 1 > lab notes. If students want to keep loose papers like diagrams or notes as hard copies, they should store them in a simple folder labeled science.

**Science Workbooks & Lab Manuals**

The workbook will be the place for all labs, class notes and readings. Using a “left side/right side” format, the notebook will allow for students to ask their own questions, revise answers and develop scientific thinking.

**Availability for Extra Help**

 Mondays by Request – Please email me ahead of time or see me in person to let me know you want to stay after for support. This will be done on Mondays from 330 to 4:20 or as soon as we are both available after

dismissal. Please be advised you’ll need to arrange for transportation if you stay after.

(Please just type in your names below if doing electronically, thanks!)

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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