**Cheri Higdon**

**Room** 211

**Phone**: 859-381-3192, ext. 2211

**Website**: cherihigdon.weebly.com

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**Office Hours**: 5th period 1:10pm-2:00pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:** Seventh Grade Science is a rigorous course designed to deepen scientific literacy and strengthen process skills. This course will cover a range of topics with a focus on real world connections. As we progress through these topics students will develop the following practices, which mirror professional scientists and engineers:

* Asking questions and defining problems
* Developing and using models
* Planning and carrying out investigations
* Analyzing and interpreting data
* Using mathematics and computational thinking
* Constructing explanations and designing solutions
* Engaging in argument from evidence
* Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Students will achieve these expectations as they progress through the units of study, as outlined by the Fayette County Public Schools Curriculum Framework. The units are as follows:

* Physical Sciences

-Energy

-Waves and EMR

-Forces and Interactions

-Chemical Reactions

* Life Sciences

-Matter & Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

-Structure, Function, and Information Processing

-Growth, Development and Reproduction of Organisms

**MATERIALS:**

* Science lab fee ($15)
* Dry erase markers
* Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
* Paper (line, graph, or plain)
* Pencils and/or pens
* Construction paper
* Box of tissues

**GRADING POLICY**:

Please refer to LTMS handbook for grading scale and make up policies.

33.3% Homework, Daily Activities, Quizzes

33.3% Lab Activities

33.3% Summative Assessments

**STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE:**

Both students and instructors will abide by LTMS policies. The PBIS discipline plan will be followed in the classroom, and students are expected to read and familiarize themselves with the PBIS plan.

Rules:

1. **Mind your manners.**
2. **Follow class procedures.**
3. **Try your best every day.**

Procedures:

* **On task -** Perform at your personal best with a focus on learning.
* **Entering the classroom -** Enter quietly and proceed to your assigned seat. Prepare any materials for class before the bell rings (get academic planner out, sharpen pencils, get folder, etc.)
* **When the bell rings -** Immediately take out your academic planner and copy down our learning outcome on the appropriate day. When finished copying the outcome, look to the front of the room for the bell ringer.
* **Bell ringer -** An opening question or prompt will be projected on the board as you enter. Copy the question as instructed and complete your response.
* **Turning in assignments –** Write your name, date, and period on all classroom assignments and place them in your period’s assignment tray unless directed otherwise.
* **Make-up work** **–** Find your missing assignment through the webpage, a trusted peer, or the teacher and retrieve needed materials after instruction. Make-up work is only accepted for excused absences and during SHARP.
* **Hall pass –** Raise hand to request a hall pass. If granted, fill out your hall pass in your academic planner. Passes are only granted for restroom use.
* **Attention -** Stop what you are doing and silently look at the teacher.
* **Getting out of your seat –** Silently raise your hand to request to leave your seat.
* **End of class -** Remain in your seat until dismissed by the teacher to ensure that all materials are cleaned up and the lesson is concluded. Exit the class quietly and calmly.
* **Tidiness –** Straighten your desk and push in your chair once you are dismissed. Make sure that no litter is on the floor.
* **Lab activities -** Follow all lab instructions, safety guidelines, and stay in your group in the assigned area. Carefully clean and return all lab supplies.
* **Personal requests –** Wait until after the instructor has addressed the class for any personal request. Any personal request made while the teacher is addressing the class will be automatically denied.
* **Tardiness -** Be in your assigned seat at the start of class, otherwise you are considered late. If your tardy is excused, give me your documentation; you may not leave class to obtain a note. If unexcused, follow normal entrance procedures.A tardy is excused only if you have a note from a teacher or the office.
* **Bring your own device (BYOD) –** Keep your device flat on your desk. Be responsible for your device and keep it in your care at all times; teachers are not responsible for lost or damaged devices. Use your personal device only to meet our learning outcome; any misuse of technology will be subject to disciplinary action.

Changes to this syllabus are not anticipated. However, the teacher reserves the right to make alterations to this document while keeping parents and students informed.

Dear Parents, Caretakers, and Families,

Welcome to the 2014 - 2015 school year at LTMS. We have a fun year ahead of us! My name is Cheri Higdon and I am your child’s 7th Grade Science teacher. We will be covering a broad range of topics; however the focus will be on learning skills, rather than collecting facts. I look forward to helping your child as the year progresses in every way that I can.

Please contact me with any concerns that may come up. I can be reached by phone, email, or in person. If schedule conflicts or transportation are a barrier, we can make an arrangement to ensure that your child gets what he or she needs. I hope to meet with each of you, and I value any input or thoughts that you have. On occasion, I will email parents and caretakers with information on projects, tests, assignments, and class news; please include an email address. Please read the syllabus that has been sent home today and contact me with any questions. Your child has been asked to return this letter and the science safety contract (on reverse side) with your signature and to place this syllabus in his or her folder; this will be your child’s first grade in the grade book. If there is a preferred method of contact, use the space below to let me know.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your child! This year is going to be a great year for all of us!

Sincerely,

Cheri Higdon

**My signature below indicates that I have received and reviewed Ms. Higdon’s 2014-2015 Seventh Grade Science Syllabus. I will do my very best to abide by the policies in Ms. Higdon’s classroom.**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Will your child have consistent internet access? Yes or No

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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