



Welcome to Mrs. Dorsey’s 7th Grade Science Class

My name is Brittany Anderson-Dorsey. I am the 7TH Grade Science Teacher here at Hornsby Middle School. I have Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Claflin University. I have worked for Communities and Schools of Wilkes County and with United Way in Macon, Ga as a Parent Educator for Parents as Teachers. I am presently working on a Master’s degree in Secondary Education at Grand Canyon University.

In the classroom, I plan to motivate my students to become lifelong learners in the field of Science. We will also conduct appropriate activities to demonstrate the subjects. Students will also be assigned homework and projects throughout the school year to demonstrate what we have learned.

**Course Description:** The **Seventh Grade Georgia Standards of Excellence**for science are designed to give all students the necessary skills for a smooth transition from elementary life science standards to high school biology standards. The purpose is to give all students an overview of common strands in life science including, but not limited to, diversity of living organisms, structure and function of cells, heredity, ecosystems, and biological evolution.

Seventh grade students keep records of their observations, use those records to analyze the data they collect, recognize patterns in the data, use simple charts and graphs to represent the relationships they see, and find more than one way to interpret their findings. They make and use observations to explain the diversity of living organisms and how the organisms are classified, how they reproduce and how genetic information is passed from parents to their offspring. They use different models to represent systems such as cells, tissues, and organs. They use what they know about ecosystems to explain how matter cycles and energy flows through the ecosystem. They use the concepts of natural selection and fossil evidence to construct explanations about the diversity of life that they see. Seventh graders plan and carry out investigations, describe observations, and show information in graphical form. The students replicate investigations and compare results to find similarities and differences.

**Materials Needed:** Spiral Notebook (2), Loose-Leaf Paper, Three-ring binder, # 2 Pencils, Colored Pencils, Highlighters, and Glue Stick.

**Online Learning Classroom Expectations for Students and Parents/Guardians**

**Behavioral Expectations for Students**

· All school rules, regulations and conduct should be followed while in the online learning environment. All laws must also be followed.

· Students should always be respectful and courteous to authority, including teachers and administrators. They should not disrupt or distract the class and should not interfere with the teacher’s ability to instruct the class in any way.

· Students should also be respectful and courteous to other students. Inappropriate, offensive, discriminatory or threatening comments and/or disruptive behavior by any participants during Canvas/Microsoft Teams online class sessions will not be tolerated.

· Login credentials must not be shared. Sharing of login information violates other students’ and teachers’ rights to confidentiality and could allow class participation by unauthorized persons and/or lead to disruptive behaviors that detract from a productive and positive learning environment.

· Students should not misrepresent or falsify their identity. Nor should they refuse to identify themselves to their teacher.

· There should be no other onlookers that are not part of the class. Non-students should not login to a Canvas or Microsoft Teams Meeting without authorization. Students should not share classroom links. Other family members or non-students should not be visible, by webcam, during virtual class.

· While engaged in online classroom activities, students should not allow anything other than their face and their voice (at appropriate times) to be seen or heard in the Canvas or Microsoft Teams Meeting.

· It is typical online meeting courtesy to remain muted unless called upon by the teacher to speak (then the student should unmute).

· It is best for students to have a work station for online learning that is free from distractions and noises. However, muting while in online class gatherings, prevents unexpected distractions (crying baby, barking dog, music or TV) from distracting the entire class. There also should never be visual distractions visible in the background behind students.

· The best background for a virtual classroom is a solid color wall. We encourage students to use the background features in Microsoft Teams. The goal is to minimize distractions for other students. Things that would not be allowed in school should not be visible on camera such as weapons, offensive signage or artwork, alcoholic beverage bottles or other prohibited substances.

· The virtual environment should resemble the in-person environment as much as possible. Students should not have a virtual “show and tell” with toys, pets and any other item that would not be permitted in class.

· Showing pornography, exhibiting lewd behavior or making lewd comments is not permitted in the virtual classroom environment or in person. Such activity violates the code of conduct and will result in disciplinary action. Such behavior could also result in legal implications.

· Typical classroom dress code should be followed at all times and students should sit in an upright position similar to their posture in a school setting.

· Obscene, vulgar or discriminatory language is not permissible and students may not speak to students or teachers in a demeaning or derogatory manner.

Privacy Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

To maintain a positive, productive learning environment and assure confidentiality for students and teachers during online learning, all parents/guardians are asked to follow these privacy guidelines.

· Canvas/Microsoft Teams live lessons are designed for students. To prevent disruptions to the learning environment, parents/guardians should not actively participate in the live instructional sessions, although parents/guardians may assist their child with technology and/or remain nearby.

· Do not video record, audio record, photograph, live stream, or transmit in any other way any part of a Canvas/Microsoft Teams live virtual session and do not share on social media.

· Any confidential or personally identifiable information related to students participating in Canvas/Microsoft Teams online sessions should not be collected, discussed or shared. The Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) applies and should be followed with fidelity.

· Parents/guardians should not engage with students during Canvas/Microsoft Teams online sessions. If you need to speak with your child during a live session, first mute your child’s microphone.

· If a parent/guardian has a question, please contact your student’s teacher through email or Canvas rather than interrupting class.

Students, parents and caregivers, we appreciate you. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us ensure a positive and protective virtual learning experience.

**Grading Scale**

**100 – 90 A**

**89 – 80 B**

**79 – 75 C**

**74 – 70 D**

**69 – 0 F**

**Grading Policy**

**Homework-5%**

**Test- 25%**

**Quizzes – 20%**

**Projects- 20%**

**Classwork- 20%**

**Participation- 10%**

**Course Assessments/Activities:**

* **Tests:** Students will complete a pre-test to show what they may know before the start of the unit and a post-test at the end of the unit to demonstrate what they have learned.
* **Projects:** I will frequently make cooperative learning assignments that the student will complete in teams with each member taking a part of a larger task or with all members reaching consensus about the same task. As a rule, when working in teams, each student is required to turn in his/ her own paper (work). The students will receive a team grade. Students may also be assigned long-term individual projects as well (i.e., Science Fair, Brochures, Reports, and Presentations).
* **Class Activities:** Students will maintain a Portfolio that will contain daily warm-up questions, notes, vocabulary, and science aids.
* **Quizzes:** Students will complete a quiz and/or formative at the end of each lesson to show their level of progress.
* **Extra Credit:** The class as a whole will be given the opportunity to complete extra credit work to enhance their scientific knowledge and overall grade.
* **Homework:** Students will be assigned homework as needed to further develop their understanding of a topic or as practice at home.
* **Labs:** Students will conduct lab activities to discover and understand the Science Units more effectively; Lab safety will be top priority! Lab reports are summaries of given activities.
* **Notebook:** Students will keep all notes taken in class in a 3 ring-binder/folder.

**Late Work Policy**

Assignments such as Projects, and Portfolio will have deadlines. This work must be completed by the given deadline. DO NOT WAIT TO THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE YOUR WORK.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. I look forward to having a great year!

**Contact Information:** anderbr3@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us Phone: 706-823-6928

**I have read the “Class Guidelines” with my child.**

Student’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Science period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please include any additional information I would need to know about your child.

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**Please Return to Mrs. Dorsey by August 9, 2019.**