7th Grade Science

Palmetto Middle School

Shakeya McClintock, Room 114

smcclintock@marion.k12.sc.us

***Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,***

***Welcome to 7th Grade Science! My name is Ms. Shakeya McClintock. I am honored to have your child in my science class and excited to work with you and your child throughout the year. 7th grade will be full of many exciting experiences as we engage in science and engineering practices. The success of the school year is not entirely the responsibility of the student, but rather one that is shared. This vast amount of learning will be greatly enhanced through student, teacher, and parent collaboration. Open communication with the parents is essential.  The more opportunities we have to talk, either on the phone, face-to-face, or via e-mail, the more I will be able to understand and help your child with his or her needs at Palmetto Middle School. My teaching philosophy encompasses teaching the whole student.  I thoroughly understand what a gift your child is and how important he or she is to you. I believe every child can and should learn as much as possible.  In order to facilitate this cooperation, you can contact me at any time.   I look forward to working with all of you!***

**Class Description**

 7th Grade Science is designed to expose students to many facets of the natural world through science and engineering practices.  Life, environmental, and physical science will all be taught as an integrated course and with the STEAM approach.  Students will utilize the science and engineering practices to identify and solve problems, apply critical thinking skills to everyday situations, work cooperatively to achieve common goals, make connections between science concepts and current events, connect science and technology using computers and laboratory equipment, make scientific connections through the writing process, and see how different sciences are dependent on each other.  Communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking are important skills in science as they are in life, so projects may include designing and building models, oral and/or written reports, and group work.

The curriculum for this course is based the 2021 SC Science Curriculum Standards.  Science standards can be viewed at the SC State Department of Education website or on my teacher website.

**Course Content Standards**: [http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/science/standards/](http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/science/standards/%20)

This class will meet South Carolina Standards for Science with an emphasis on:

1. **Science and Engineering Practices**- Students will use science and engineering practices, including the processes and skills of scientific inquiry, to develop understandings of science content.
2. **Matter and Its Interactions** – Students will explore interactions of molecules and structures, analyze properties of substances before and after a chemical reaction and how matter is conserved during reactions, and describe how properties of matter change with thermal energy.
3. **Energy** - Students will analyze how mass and distance affect the amount of kinetic and potential energy an object has in addition to exploring how energy is transferred between systems and how that affects the temperature of a sample.



1. **From Molecules to Organisms -** Students will analyze the cycling of energy through living systems in plant and animal cells and compare and contrast the processes of photosynthesis and cellular respiration and how food is broken down and rearranged into usable energy for the cell.
2. **Ecosystem Dynamics** – Students will predict the interactions and flow of energy between organisms within ecosystems and investigate how various factors impact population dynamics. Students will design solutions that address biodiversity and how to create services to maintain it.
3. **Earth and Human Activity** - Students will explore how human activity and consumption of natural resources impact the environment and earth’s systems



Class Expectations:

**“Actively Engaged and Learning…100% of the Time!!!”**



It is my personal goal that students are actively engaged and learning 100% of the time in our classroom. For all of my students to be successful, **students are expected to:**

* Be honest and truthful at all times.
* Have a positive attitude.
* Respect his or her classmates, teacher, and visitors.
* Give 100% effort when completing tasks. Do ALL assigned work!
* Follow the school dress code, classroom expectations, and lab safety guidelines.
* Be on time to class prepared with all daily supplies.
* Turn off and put away personal electronic devices.
* Use discretion when requesting to leave the classroom, so important classroom information is not missed.
* Enter the room quietly and orderly and immediately begin the daily starters.



* Stay in his or her assigned seat throughout class unless he or she has been given permission to get up.



* Remain in his or her seat until Ms. McClintock dismisses them from class.



* Clean up around his or her desk before leaving the classroom.



* Respect the property of others



* **Supply List:**  You will need the following items

1. Notebook (1 inch 3-ring binder) (Any color) (May combine with another subject with other teacher’s approval)



1. Loose-Leaf Notebook Paper (not spiral)



1. Colored Pencils **or** Markers



1. 2 Notebook Dividers (1st divider labeled **“Notes and Handouts”;** 2nd divider labeled **“Stems”**)



1. Pens, Pencils, and Highlighters

**Daily Supplies**: Students are required to bring the following supplies to class daily.

* Science Binder



* Consumable Science Textbook (*SC McGraw*)



* Fully charged, school-issued Laptop
* Wired earbuds/headphones
* Personal Pencil Pouch with all needed supplies (pencils, erasers, pens, highlighters, ruler, markers, colored pencils, etc…)



**Cell Phones and Personal Devices:** Cell phones and/or other personal electronic devices should be turned off and stored in backpacks at all times.



**Policies**



Absences

* You have 3 days from the date of your return to school to turn in make up work.

Discipline

* All major infractions (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, violence, illicit substances, sexual harassment) will be referred directly to administration.
* Other/minor infractions may result in the following consequences:
  + Verbal warning
  + Student conference with the teacher
  + Parent contact
  + Lunch detention
  + Character Coaching
  + Referral to administration

**Grading**



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 90 – 100% | A |
| 80 – 89% | B |
| 70 – 79% | C |
| 60 – 69% | D |
| Below 59% | F |

Formal 75%



* Tests, quizzes, major projects



Informal 25%



* Assignments, homework, class work

**Tests:** Test will be given at the conclusion of each unit/topic. Test will be formatted to include multiple choice, completion, short answer, and constructed response type questions. All test are to be completed on the assigned date. All tests will be announced in advance.

**Classwork/Homework:** All classwork must be turned in on the day it was assigned.



**Communication**

The easiest way to contact me is through email: [smcclintock@marion.k12.sc.us](mailto:smcclintock@marion.k12.sc.us).



**Parent/Guardian**

Please read this course syllabus with your child, sign below and have it returned to me. If you have any questions now or throughout the school year please email me at smcclintock@marion.k12.sc.us or call 843-464-3730. I look forward to having a successful and productive year with your child.



Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

