

Required Textbook: Glencoe **South Carolina Science** Grade 7

Course Description: Seventh Grade Science is an integrated course that focuses on Inquiry, Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. Students will have the opportunity to investigate and explore objectives outlined in the November 2005 South Carolina Standards for Science. This will be accomplished through a combination of learning methods such as hands-on activities/labs, cooperative learning groups, discussions, note taking, journal writing, and group and individual practice. This course is designed to enhance students' understanding and appreciation for the true nature of science. In this course, students will utilize the scientific method to identify and solve problems, apply science process 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 explore how the sciences are interdependent.

Course Content Standards: <http://ed.sc.gov>

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

- I. Inquiry- The student will demonstrate an understanding of technological design and scientific inquiry, including process skills, mathematical thinking, controlled investigative design and analysis, and problem solving.
- II. Life Science- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the structure and function of cells, cellular reproduction, and heredity. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the functions and interconnections of the major human body systems, including the breakdown in structure or function that disease causes.
- III. Earth Science- The student will demonstrate an understanding of how organisms interact with and respond to the biotic and abiotic components of their environment.
- IV. Physical Science- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the classifications and properties of matter and the changes that matter undergoes.

Disclaimer: Because our primary goal is to maximize student achievement, material may be added, deleted, and/or substituted at the teacher's discretion based on the individual needs, levels, and learning styles of each class. Creative projects, written assignments and supplemental materials may be included throughout the year as opportunities arise. There will be on-going assessment as well as writing assignments.

Course Requirements: Every student is responsible for and expected to follow all rules and guidelines set forth in the Riverside Middle School Student Handbook regarding the attendance, tardy, and discipline policy.

Classroom 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 my 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 their 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.
 - 👉 Come prepared with all daily supplies.
 - 👉 Leave cell phones and other personal electronic devices, turned off, in their locker.
 - 👉 Leave purses, book bags, and any other type of bag in their locker.
 - 👉 Use the restroom and go to their locker before they come to class.
 - 👉 Enter the room quietly and orderly and immediately begin the daily starters.
 - 👉 Stay in their assigned seat throughout class unless they have been given permission to get up.
 - 👉 Remain in their seat until Mrs. Varner dismisses them from class. The bell does not dismiss students from my class.
 - 👉 Clean up around their desk and push in their chair before leaving the classroom.
 - 👉 Respect the property of others and refrain from writing on or damaging Mrs. Varner's textbooks, furniture, and/or other classroom supplies.
- **Laboratory Guidelines** (see attached Safety Contract)
 - **Tardy Policy:** Students are expected to be on time to class every day. Students will be given four minutes between classes to go to their locker, use the restroom, and take care of personal business **before they enter my classroom.** Students who are late must sign in. The fourth time a student comes to class late he/she will receive an office referral and be assigned to Principal's Detention from 3:05 until 5:00 on Thursday afternoon.

- **Consequences:** Each consequence is based on the situation and is at my discretion. Consequences will generally follow the order of the following: verbal warning, parent contact, detention, and office referral. Any severe disruption in class will result in an immediate office referral. The 7th Grade Quality Point System will also be used in my class.
- **Student Agendas and Hall Passes:** Students are required to bring their agenda to class everyday and write down any homework assignments. If there is no homework for a given day, students are to write "none." Student agendas will be checked weekly. Hall passes are written at my discretion. I usually do not let anyone leave my room unless there is an emergency. During class changes, students are free to go to the restroom, but generally not during class.
- **Dismissal From Class:** When the bell rings at the end of each period, **I will dismiss the class.** Students are free to go when I feel they are quiet and have all necessary information for the day.
- **Supply List:** You will need the following items by **August 22.**
 - 1- Notebook (1 or 1½ inch 3-ring binder) (Any color)
 - 2- Loose-Leaf Notebook Paper (not spiral)
 - 3- Markers or Colored Pencils (**labeled with their name to leave in the classroom**)
 - 4- 2 packages of 3X5 Index Cards (**labeled with their name to leave in the classroom**)
 - 5- 3 Unlabeled Notebook Dividers
 - 6- 1 Roll of Paper Towels
 - 7- Pens, Pencils, and Highlighters
 - 8- Appropriate Reading Material (novel) (for when you finish early)

Optional Donations for our Classroom: All donations are greatly appreciated!!!

- Paper Towels
- Kitchen Hand Towels
- Kleenex
- Markers or Colored Pencils
- White or Colored Copier Paper
- Card Stock Paper
- Gallon or quart size zipper baggies
- Glue Sticks, Large Paper Clips, or Scotch Tape
- Jolly Ranchers
- Liquid Hand Soap
- 3x5 Index Cards
- File Folders
- Electric Pencil Sharpener

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

- € Science Binder
- € Pens, Pencils, and Highlighters
- € Agenda
- € Appropriate, Extra Reading Material

Students are not allowed to use or bring the following items to class: whiteout, permanent markers, lotions, sprays, etc...

- **Grade Computation:** This grading policy is in compliance with the Greenville County Schools' policy.
 - Major Assessments 50%**
 - Tests
 - Formal Lab Reports
 - Projects
 - Formal Writing Assignments
 - Minor Assessments 50%**
 - Quizzes
 - Mini-Lab Reports
 - Homework (Not to exceed 10% of total grade)
 - Class Work
 - Weekly Starters
- **Grading Scale:**
 - A=93-100 B=85-92 C=77-84 D=70-76 F=69 or below
- **Homework:**
 - Every night students should read over their science notes in preparation for up coming tests/quizzes.
 - Students should do homework completely and carefully.

- **Late Work:** Students are expected to complete and submit all assignments on the assigned due date to receive full credit. All work turned in must be complete and show that effort was put into completing the assignment.
- **Tests:** Tests are announced 3-5 days in advance and dates will be posted in the classroom and on my website.
- **Missed Work From Absences/ Make-up Policy:** Students who are absent have 5 days after returning to school to complete missed work. It is the student's responsibility to get the assignments missed and complete them within the allotted time. Zeros are earned if the work is not made up by the due date. Students will need to make arrangements to stay after school in order to make up quizzes or tests. Students need to pre-arrange the date with me before planning to stay. (Emergency situations and extended absences will be handled on an individual basis.)
- **Extra Help:** If your child is struggling in my class or would like extra help, I am available before and after school. Students/parents must arrange a time that suits the schedule of both parties ahead of time.
- **Conferences:** At any time, if you would like to meet with me, please call Lynn Truitt at 355-7915 to set up an appointment.
- **E-mail:** Parents and students are welcome to email me at pvarner@greenville.k12.sc.us.
- **Teacher Website:** Tests, quizzes, and other class information will be posted at <http://teachers.greenville.k12.sc.us/sites/pvarner>

A copy of this information has been given to each student. Parents or guardians should complete and sign the bottom portion and return it to me by **August 19**. **Students should put the remainder of this syllabus in the front of their science binder.**

Cut here and return completed bottom portion to Mrs. Varner by August 19.

We have read and discussed the information in this syllabus concerning Mrs. Varner's classroom expectations and the lab safety contract.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent Email Address (please print neatly)

 Email addresses will be used to send class information and reminders.

Video Permission

During the school year I will be showing video clips that are rated PG or PG 13 which are directly related to the concepts that are being taught in my class. The purpose of the each video clip is to further explore standard-based concepts and enhance the learning process. I will take careful consideration in selecting each clip to ensure they are age appropriate and serve as a teaching tool to better my students' understanding of the concepts being taught. Video clips include but are not limited to, Osmosis Jones, Animal Planet excerpts, Planet in Peril, The Planet Earth Series, Grossology, Ice Age, Young Scientist Myth Busters, A Beautiful Mind, and Jurassic Park.

Please sign in the appropriate space below. If you do not choose for your child to view the video clips, your child will complete an alternate assignment in the media center.

_____ My child has permission to watch age appropriate video clips that are PG or PG13 in Mrs. Varner's class.

_____ I do not wish for my child to watch video clips that have a rating of PG or PG13.

1st Quarter

Science Inquiry

SC Science Standards 7-1.1 - 7-1.7

Chapter 1

- _____ Science Process Skills
- _____ Scientific Method
- _____ Developing Testable Questions
- _____ Formulating Hypothesis
- _____ Identifying Variables
- _____ Conducting Controlled Scientific Investigations
- _____ Analyzing Data
- _____ Drawing Conclusions
- _____ Using Appropriate Safety Procedures
- _____ Technological Design

Cells

SC Science Standards 7-2-1 - 7-2.4

Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5

- _____ Microscopes
- _____ Cell Structures and Functions
- _____ Plant and Animal Cells
- _____ Bacteria
- _____ Protist
- _____ Photosynthesis
- _____ Respiration
- _____ Waste Elimination
- _____ Mitosis

2nd Quarter

Heredity

SC Science Standards 7-2.5 – 7-2.7

Chapter 6

- _____ Patterns of Inheritance
- _____ Punnett Squares
- _____ Inherited and Acquired Traits

Human Body

SC Science Standards 7-3.1-7-3.3

Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11

- _____ Organization of the Human Body
- _____ Circulatory System
- _____ Respiratory System
- _____ Digestive System
- _____ Excretory System
- _____ Nervous System
- _____ Muscular System
- _____ Skeletal System

Human Diseases

SC Science Curriculum Standards 7-3.4

Chapter 12

- _____ Infectious Diseases
- _____ Non-Infectious Diseases

3rd Quarter

Ecology

SC Science Standards: 7-4.1 – 7-4.3

Chapters 13 and 14

- _____ Organization within Ecosystems
- _____ Food Chains
- _____ Food Webs
- _____ Energy Pyramid
- _____ Limiting Factors
- _____ Population Changes

Earth Science

SC Science Standards 7-4.4 – 7-4.6

Chapters 15 and 16

- _____ Soil Quality
- _____ Water
- _____ Conservation and Depletion
- _____ Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources

4th Quarter

Chemistry

SC Science Standards 7-5.1 – 7-5.10

Chapters 4, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21

- _____ Matter
- _____ Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures
- _____ Metals and Non-metals
- _____ Periodic Table
- _____ Chemical Symbols and Formulas
- _____ Acids and Bases
- _____ Chemical Equations
- _____ Law of Conservation of Matter
- _____ Physical Properties of Matter
- _____ Chemical Properties of Matter
- _____ Physical and Chemical Changes

Science inquiry standards will be integrated into the curriculum throughout each unit of study.