##### Austin Road Middle School Vision

**Austin Road Middle School will cultivate an environment for creativity, innovation and leadership where we exceed expectations every day.**

##### Austin Road Middle School Mission Statement

**Austin Road Middle School strives to develop a nurturing school community that encourages academic success for each scholar through a rigorous curriculum and extracurricular opportunities supported by dedicated teachers and staff.  Each scholar will become a contributing citizen of our community and global environment.**

##### Course Description

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 cycles and energy flows through the ecosystem matter. They use the concepts of natural selection and fossil evidence to create 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. The middle school life science course is designed to give all students an overview of common strands in life science including, but not limited to, structure and function, ecosystems, cells and genetics, and evolution.

##### 7th Grade Life Science Content Standards

**S7L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to investigate the diversity of living organisms and how they can be compared scientifically.**

**S7L2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to describe how cell structures, cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems interact to maintain the basic needs of organisms.**

**S7L3. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to explain how organisms reproduce either sexually or asexually and transfer genetic information to determine the traits of their offspring.**

**S7L4. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to examine the interdependence of organisms with one another and their environments.**

**S7L5. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information from multiple sources to explain the theory of evolution of living organisms through inherited characteristics**

##### Course Outline

**Unit 1 Classification and the Diversity of Organisms (approximately 3 weeks)(Aug)**

**Unit 2 Cells and Interdependence of Body Systems (approximately 9 weeks) (Aug-Oct)**

**Unit 3 Genetics (approximately 9 weeks) (Oct-Jan)**

**Unit 4 Evolution (approximately 3 weeks)(Jan-Feb)**

**Unit 5 Ecology (approximately 9 weeks) (Feb-Apr)**

##### Textbooks and Materials

**Textbook**: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Online Textbook

**Google Classroom**

**USA Test Prep**

**(Virtual Learning)**

* **Laptop 😊**
* **Pencils**
* **Composition or Spiral Notebook**

**(Face to Face Learning)**

* **1 1/2-inch binder**
* **Dividers**
* **Scissors**
* **Sheet Protectors**
* **Crayons/Color Pencils**
* **Glue Sticks**
* **Dry Erase Markers**
* **Sanitizer**
* **Headphones**

##### Grading Policy (Category Weights)

**Practice Work: 40%**

* Classwork
* Participation
* Notebook Checks

**Assessment: 40%**

* Projects
* Quizzes

**Summative Semester Assessment: 20%**

* Unit Tests
* Final Exam

##### Expectations

**Virtual Learning Expectations**

* Be present on all Google Meets meetings
* Submit all assignments on time
* Participate in discussions with teacher and classmates
* Sign up for at least 1 group tutoring session a week
* Complete all assignments independently (Parents are not to complete assignments for the scholar.)

**Classroom Expectations**

* Come to class prepared everyday
* Be actively engaged in every lesson
* Even when it gets difficult, never give up
* Complete all assignments to the best of your ability
* Be open minded in your mathematical thinking
* Collaborate with classmates when necessary
* Be supportive and respectful to your classmates and teacher

**Consequences**

* + Warnings, Jag Bites, Office Referrals

**Documentation**

* If a scholar receives a Jag Bite, documentation will come home for a signature as well as a phone call or e-mail.
* If a scholar receives an office referral, parent or guardian will be contacted by an administrator.

**Homework Policy**

Homework is a review of previously learned information, video viewing, completion of online activities, or a probing problem for scholars to use critical thinking skills to solve. Each scholar is different in the amount of time it will take to complete homework assignments. Homework has a set due date that the scholar will be made aware of when homework is assigned. My expectation is that homework will be completed in its entirety by the date assigned. Homework also may be an introduction to a new standard.

**Absences**

**It is the scholar’s responsibility to find out what they miss when they are absent. Extra credit is given randomly throughout the year. Please take advantage of it. It is not given out by request.**

##### Parent-Teacher Communication

**Email is the best way to contact me.** [**angela.stafford@henry.k12.ga.us**](mailto:angela.stafford@henry.k12.ga.us)

**Homework assignments and announcements will be sent out via Google Classroom and/or Remind 101**

##### Remind 101 Codes

**Text the code** ARMS6SCI

**to 81010 or (678) 621-2157**

To acknowledge receipt of this document, click the link below.

[Science Syllabus Acknowledgement Form](https://forms.gle/yyomY9qf4T9acERc7)