



Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Life Science
(SC 4116)
One year
Grade 7

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Life Science is a laboratory and activity-centered program that provides students with a broad foundation in the biological sciences. Topics range from cells, plants and animals to heredity and career opportunities. Laboratory investigations and activities are the primary means for developing problem-solving skills and for understanding scientific concepts and principles. Students will develop inquiry and problem-solving skills through scientific investigation. Research and decision-making skills are further developed through the investigation of local or national issues and concerns that result from the interaction of science, technology and society.

COURSE GOALS

- Develop a foundation of concepts and principles in the life sciences
- Develop problem-solving and decision-making skills through experimentation, research and discussion
- Develop an awareness of the interdisciplinary nature of science and its relevance to society
- Develop basic communication skills
- Explore the application of scientific principles in careers and in other areas of interest
- Provide reading and study skills

PREREQUISITE

Sixth grade science

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Physical Science 8

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Glencoe Science: *Life Science* (2008)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of all core objectives through laboratory investigations, issue investigations, projects and oral and/or written tests, quizzes and reports
- Participate in the laboratory experiences, adhering to all safety procedures
- Prepare written reports for laboratory activities
- Investigate career opportunities and areas of interest in the life sciences

The Instructional Objectives that Comprise the Grade 7 Life Science Course are Summarized as Follows from the Curriculum:

- Demonstrate an understanding of scientific reasoning, logic and the nature of science by planning and conducting investigations.
- Investigate and understand that all living things are composed of cells.
- Investigate and understand that living things show patterns of cellular organization.
- Investigate and understand how organisms can be classified.
- Investigate and understand the basic physical and chemical processes of photosynthesis and its importance to plant and animal life.
- Investigate and understand that organisms within an ecosystem are dependent on one another and on nonliving components of the environment.
- Investigate and understand that interactions exist among members of a population.
- Investigate and understand how organisms adapt to biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem.
- Investigate and understand that ecosystems, communities, populations and organisms are dynamic, change over time and respond to daily, seasonal and long-term changes in their environment.
- Investigate and understand the relationships between ecosystem dynamics and human activity.
- Investigate and understand that organisms reproduce and transmit genetic information to new generations.
- Investigate and understand that populations of organisms change over time.

Dr. Aaron C. Spence, Superintendent
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
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For further information please call (757) 263-1070.

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CHARTING THE COURSE

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