

**Advanced Content 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science Syllabus  
Cooper Middle School  
2019-2020 School Year**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Hannah Tompkins  
**Email:** [Hannah.tompkins@cobbk12.org](mailto:Hannah.tompkins@cobbk12.org)  
**Phone:** (770) 819-2438 ext. 1712  
**Class Website:** [cooperlifescience.weebly.com](http://cooperlifescience.weebly.com)



**Course Description:** The course framework and instructional strategies for this course are differentiated in content, pacing, process skills emphasis, and expectation of student outcomes from the typical 7th grade Life Science course. Course content has been designed for mastery and extension of state and district performance standards. The course is appropriate for students who have high achievement and interest in Science. Cooper Middle School has established criteria and guidelines to identify students who will be successful in this course. Students are placed in this class according to specified indicators of demonstrated exceptional ability and motivation. Students must meet continuation criteria to remain in the class.

**Course Objectives:** The main objective of this course is to make students competent practitioners of methods used in science and engineering to develop their knowledge of life science concepts. Students will regularly use science and engineering practices to develop working knowledge of life science including the structure, processes, and history of living organisms.

**What will we learn about?**

1. Structure and Function of Cells
2. Human Body Systems
3. Genetics, Heredity, and Reproduction
4. Evolution
5. Interdependence of Life
6. Classification of Living Organisms

**How will I be graded?**

Tests and Major Projects	60%
Classwork, Labs, and Quizzes	35%
Homework	5%
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A	- 90-100%
B	- 80-89%
C	- 74-79%
D	- 70-73%
F	- 69% and below

**Textbook:** HMH Georgia Science, Grade 7. Students will be provided with a hardcopy of their textbook and can access an online version of the textbook. A link to the online textbook can be found on the class website.

**Plagiarism/Cheating:** Stealing a writer's words without crediting the source and/or cheating on ANY assignment will result in an automatic zero.

**Make-Up Work:** If you are absent from class, you are expected to check the class website to view any missed material/assignments. Any missed work should be submitted to Mrs. Tompkins within 3 days of returning to school. Many assignments will be given on online platforms (i.e. Quizlet, USA Test Prep). If difficulty accessing technology prevents a student from completing an assignment on time, that student must submit a signed note from a parent to Mrs. Tompkins no later than the due date. If a signed note is provided, the assignment will be excused and the student will be given an alternate assignment.

**Late-Work:** Graded homework will not be accepted after the due date and will result in a zero. An assignment other than homework will receive a point deduction of 10 points per day for every day it is late for a maximum of 3 days. The highest grade a student can receive after the 3rd late day is a 70. No assignments will be accepted after the grading period has concluded.

**Electronics:** We will use electronics in the classroom. However, failure to use them appropriately (i.e. going to off-task websites, damaging or destroying electronics, etc.) will result in the loss of electronics privileges. Personal electronics are not to be used in the classroom without specific permission from Mrs. Tompkins.

**Classroom/Lab Safety:** We will be doing hands-on labs in this class. Every student is required to follow the lab safety procedures outlined by Mrs. Tompkins before each lab. Additionally, students and parents will be asked to review and sign a lab safety contract. Failure to return a signed safety contract or failure to follow safety procedures will result in dismissal from the classroom during lab time and an alternate assignment.

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. **Be a great teammate.** (This means we respect our teammates by encouraging and working cooperatively with one another.)
2. **Be prepared for class.** (This means having a ready-to-learn attitude, the appropriate supplies, and being in your seat *before* the bell rings.)
3. **Be attentive to instructions the *first* time.**
4. **Be enthusiastic and positive!**

**Let's do our absolute best to follow these expectations so we can have lots of fun exploring the world of science this year!**

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**Please sign and return this form no later than Wednesday, August 7, 2019.**

*I have read and understand the course requirements for Advanced Content Life Science.*

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Email \_\_\_\_\_