# 7th Grade Science 2016-2017

**Kyle Kordon**
kordon_k@4j.lane.edu

## About Me

Welcome to a new school year! Those of you who are returning, it is nice to see you again, and those of you who are new to our school, welcome! This is my 5th year teaching at Kelly, and have taught Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science during my career. I grew up in the Eugene area, did my undergraduate studies at Chapman University in California, and returned to the University of Oregon for my graduate studies. I am one of the three WEB coordinators at Kelly, am one of the four track coaches, and teach the 7th grade AVID class. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my wife, Sarah, and our 2-year old daughter, Olivia. During the summer I also play for, and manage a baseball team, the Oregon Giants, in the local Eugene adult baseball league. Please don't hesitate to email me if you ever have any questions about class, something going on at school, or anything in between.

## 7th Grade Curriculum – Major Topics

- **Chemistry**: How Can I Make New Stuff From Old Stuff?
- **Life Science**: Where Have All the Creatures Gone?
- **Physical Science**: Why Do Some Things Stop While Others Keep Going?
- **Earth Science**: What Makes the Weather Change?
- **Engineering Design Projects:** Wind Turbines & Solar Cars
- **Life Science:** What is Going On Inside Me?

Over the course of the year we will focus on **crafting** Scientific Explanations by making **claims**, supported by **evidence**, and explained by **reasoning** to explain the scientific phenomena we observe in class, as well as **constructing** and **critiquing** Scientific Models, and **designing** Scientific Investigations on the topics listed above.

## Supplies

You **must** have all your supplies every day at the beginning of class. If you come to class unprepared you will be considered tardy. I expect everyone to have all supplies by **Monday, September 12.**

- Your school binder with:
  - Pencil pouch
  - Eraser
  - Several pencils & pens
- Science Notebook (composition notebook) – one for the entire school year
- Your student planner – we will write in this *every day*

## Grades: Daily Work – 60% of Grade

Most of our daily work from our labs, investigations, and experiments will be done digitally on our classroom iPads. This work will be given a weekly proficiency score on Synergy based on completion

and effort. The IDE can be seen at home by logging into the IQWST IDE site – which will be covered in more detail during open house. The URL for the IDE is**: https://www.iqwst.com/webapp/**.

**Grades: Assessments (Specific Labs, Experiments, Projects, Tests or Quizzes) – 40% of Grade**

Once or twice a week, we will input one of our labs or investigations into our Interactive Science Notebooks (INB) for more detailed check-in and feedback. Which labs or investigations will be given this summative feedback will be announced during class, and will be given a proficiency score. This scoring will happen 6-8 times during the trimester, and will directly relate to our **Science & Engineering Practices**. We will set our INBs up on **Monday, September 12** so it is essential that you have your notebook here that day. You must keep your INB in class and only take it home if you need to finish an assignment. If you need to take your INB home, it must be checked out, and checked back in upon return.

**Letter grades** will be awarded based on the standard grading scale. **You should check your grades on synergy at least every other week.**

| | |
|---|---|
| 90-100% | A |
| 80-89% | B |
| 70-79% | C |
| 60-69% | D |
| Less than 60% | F |

**Make-up Work**

**If you are absent or miss an assignment for *any* reason**, it is ***your*** responsibility to complete all missed work. You will find what we did while you were gone in my science notebook, the class website, or in the assignment organizer in our room. An assignment missed for any reason will be accepted for credit for **up to two weeks** after the initial assigned date (unless the end of the trimester occurs prior to the end of this two-week time period). Because this is a hands-on based class, making up labs and other activities will often require that you come in on *your own time* in order to complete it, or you may request an alternate on-topic assignment to be given at my discretion. The best times to come in will be before school, at lunch, or after school.

**Class Website**

I have designed a class website as a resource for this upcoming year. A couple of times a week, I will post assignment resources, readings, etc. to the site as needed. You will also get an email about once a week with an overview of the topics that we will be covering in the week ahead. I have found that this helps with generating discussion at home as to what is happening at school, as well as help keep families informed about how things are going in my class. Here is the URL for the website: **http://blogs.4j.lane.edu/kordon_k/**.

**Contact**

The best way to contact me is via email. I will generally take no longer than 24 hours to respond to an email, and never any longer than 48 hours. If you need to schedule a one-on-one meeting for any reason, please contact me well in advance to set up a time. I am looking forward to this year! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

# SAFETY LETTER

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Middle school science consists of engaging topics for students to investigate in a lab setting. However, any science activity may have potential safety issues if not conducted properly. Safety in the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process. To ensure a safe learning environment, a list of rules has been developed and discussed with all students because science rules must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions will be given for each activity. Please discuss the safety rules with your child and return the bottom of this letter.

No science student will be allowed to participate in science activities until the student and a parent or guardian have acknowledged their understanding of these safety rules by signing this document.

*Science Safety Rules*

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the science room.
2. Follow instructions carefully. Ask questions if you do not understand the instructions.
3. Use equipment (e.g., scissors and sharp items) only as directed by the teacher.
4. Perform only approved experiments.
5. Never eat, drink, chew gum, or taste anything in the science lab.
6. Keep hands away from face, eyes, and mouth while using science materials. Wash your hands with soap and water after the activity.
7. Wear safety goggles when instructed. Never remove safety goggles during an experiment. There are no exceptions to this rule!
8. Clean all work areas and equipment, and dispose properly of any waste materials.
9. Report any accident (spill, breakage, and so on), injury, or broken equipment to the teacher immediately.
10. If you have allergies, it is important that your teacher knows about them and that you avoid handling materials that could cause problems. For example, if you are allergic to latex, you can participate in activities that use balloons, but you should not be the one to handle the balloons.

# SAFETY AGREEMENT

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

We are providing the Science Safety Rules to keep you informed of the school's effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment for all students.

Your signature on this letter indicates that you have read the Science Safety Rules, have reviewed them with your child, and are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your son/daughter in the science classroom.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Important question – Does your child have any health issues or allergies? If yes, please list them here.