



Seventh Grade Science Syllabus
Mrs. Becky Zacher
2018 to 2019



Welcome to a new school year...
 I look forward to helping your young scientist grow!

Contact

- **Weebly Website:**
<http://beckyzacher.weebly.com>
- **Email:**
 - becky.zacher@rcsc.k12.in.us
 - rebecca.zacher@rensselaerschools.org
- **Remind Texting:**
 - Text @scizac1819 to 81010.
 - To sign up via email, go to <https://www.remind.com/join/scizac1819>
 - Specific directions on the "Welcome and Contacts" page of my website.

Curriculum

Units and topics of study are based on Indiana State Science Standards.

A "user-friendly" version of 7 th grade science standards can be found here:	https://beckyzacher.weebly.com/general-classroom-resources.html
A complete set of 7 th grade science standards and benchmarks from the DOE can be found here:	https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/standards/indiana-seventh-grade-standards-2016-41116.pdf

Students will study three main and interrelated topics in science: **Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science**. Engineering, science processes and science literacy skills will be used throughout units. This includes analyzing research and data to reach and write a conclusion based on evidence.

Some of the more specific topics that will be studied include (in no particular order listed):

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✓ Karst, Caves, and Glaciers (Indiana Geology) | ✓ Minerals, Rocks and Resources | ✓ Cell Reproduction and Growth |
| ✓ Plate Tectonics and Volcanoes | ✓ Fossils and Geologic Time | ✓ Energy and Work |
| | ✓ Organs and Body Systems | ✓ Newton's Laws of Motion |
| | ✓ Cell Biology | |

A goal I have is for students to be **lifelong learners**. My hope is to encourage and grow their curiosity about the world around them. I want to help them become informed young adults that make decisions based on evidence.

In early years, students learn to read. We will be **reading to learn**. Students will learn how to "dissect" informational text since literacy is also important in science. Many different resources will be used, but most of the time students will download a **PDF** of the text into the Notability app. These "texts" will be posted in Canvas. Other documents, videos, etc. will be on my Weebly page.

Reading is not the only task students will complete in class. Students will also use the **scientific method/inquiry processes** to investigate, experiment, and model to help them understand, make connections, and learn.

Expectations

I expect students to **follow the rules in the RCMS student handbook** as well as the specific classroom expectations. A link to the handbook is posted on my Weebly on the "General Classroom Resources" tab.

Class expectations are posted in the classroom and include, but are not limited to:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Be kind, help each other, and be respectful. | 3. Pay attention in class. | 7. Participate. |
| 2. Keep your materials organized and clean up when you are done. | 4. Complete assignments well and on time. | 8. Always do your best and never give up. |
| | 5. Follow directions the first time. | |
| | 6. Ask for help when you need it. | |

There are **lab and investigation specific guidelines** that will be **reviewed and reinforced as needed**. These safety guidelines may include wearing goggles, not eating or drinking during a lab, and specific clean up rules for materials used.

I use a **behavior log** for any student who has missing work, or is a class disruption, etc. This is a way to keep track and document behavior. After one or more warnings a student will be sent to the reset room. Students will be assigned a detention and parents/guardians will be contacted.

Assessments and Assignments

- **Pretests** will be used to assess what students know before a new unit begins. (This will NOT affect their final grades.) At end of a unit, a **post-test** will be given to see the growth students have made over the course of the unit. (Students WILL earn a grade for their post-test.) A study guide is will be provided for all tests.
- Traditional quizzes, as well as labs and investigations, lab conclusions and reflections, projects, informal individual and group assessments, and sometimes worksheets are used as an **ongoing assessment** as well.

Science Binders and Notebooks:

- **Science binders** are 1-inch plastic binders with **5 dividers** that students keep in the classroom to organize and store anything on paper, such as important class information, handouts and notes, vocabulary, and graded work. **Students may take them home to show off, study or organize at ANY time, but do need bring them back the very next day.**
- Students need to **keep all graded work** to look back at to study for a test, or in the case of a missed grade on my part, etc. The best place keep graded work is the science binder. Students should also keep all digital assignments. A great way to do this is keeping Notability backed up in Google Drive.
- This year we are also using traditional **composition notebooks**. There are many studies related to handwriting with real paper. These studies show that students learn, understand, connect and remember the information better this way.

Assignment and Homework Policy

- Students are expected to complete ALL assignments. **Not turning in work is NOT an option.** All work is usually due next school day unless a specific due date is given.
- I believe **not turning in work is a behavior**, not a measure of what students know. Students will receive disciplinary action for not turning in work. But they will NEVER get points or percentages removed from their work. Please note that per administration, at the end of each quarter, all missing grades turn into a "zero."

Students are responsible for **keeping track of their assignments, homework, projects and due dates**. A daily agenda is available on my Weebly and also linked in Canvas; it is what I post in the front of the room each day. I do recommend students use a plan book, either paper or digital.

In addition, students are expected to **turn in their OWN work**. Any and all plagiarism is NOT tolerated and will be dealt with according to the RCMS academic Honesty Policy in the handbook.

Grading Scale

A student's grade is a reflection of what they have learned. Below is the RCMS grading scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Score</u>
A+	100-98%	B	83-87%	C-	70-72%
A	93-97%	B-	80-82%	D+	68-69%
A-	90-92%	C+	78-79%	D	63-67%
B+	88-89%	C	73-77%	D-	60-62%
				F	0-59%

As always, please contact me at any time with questions, concerns and suggestions!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Becky Zacher



P.S. Parents and guardians, **I have an assignment for YOU**. But don't worry, it's an easy one (: If at all possible, this **homework is also due by Wednesday August 29, 2108** which is the same day that the Syllabus Signature Form is due.

- ✓ ***Please write me a letter or an email that describes your child. (If writing a letter, please put in a sealed envelope.) Include anything that you would like me to know about your child, his or her needs, your goals, etc. Brag about their strengths and tell me your concerns. If there is anything you would rather share or ask me in person, we can certainly set up a conference.***

LOOK ON THE NEXT PAGE!!! LOOK ON THE NEXT PAGE!!! LOOK ON THE NEXT PAGE!!!

Please sign and return ONLY this page. Keep the other pages for your records.

Syllabus Signature Form
SCHOOL YEAR: 2018 to 2019

DUE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2018

- ✓ I have read and discussed the syllabus with my student.
- ✓ I understand Mrs. Zacher's curriculum and classroom expectations.
- ✓ If I have questions, I will contact Mrs. Zacher.

Student's class period: _____

Student name (please print):

Student signature:

Parent/Guardian name(s) (please print):

Parent/Guardian(s) signature(s):

- ✓ Throughout the year, I take pictures to document projects and labs, etc. May I post a picture of your child on the 7th grade science website? The pictures may also be used for the school year book or forwarded to Mr. Michael for the RCMS Facebook pages, etc.



Circle one: **YES** **NO** _____ (parents(s) please initial