



**Life Science**  
**2016 – 2017 School Year**  
**Mr. Pearson**  
610-866-5781, x41546  
Email: [rpearson@basdschools.org](mailto:rpearson@basdschools.org)



**Web site:** <https://sites.google.com/a/basdschools.org/pearson>

### **Message from the Teacher:**

Biology is the science of living organisms, so this field changes rapidly and dramatically as new information is discovered. More than any other field, biology encompasses a great scope of exciting topics ranging from ecology to how the human body works and fights off diseases. Biological research is currently working on some of the world's most interesting problems like how to solve global warming, how to decipher all the information stored in human DNA, and how to combat diseases like cancer and diabetes or pathogens like HIV, influenza, and antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria.

The BASD middle school teachers have coordinated the curricular topics to support/prepare students for 9<sup>th</sup> grade biology and the state Keystone biology exam.

### **Communication:**

Please contact me when you have any concerns or problems at the phone number or email address listed above.

### **Course Description:**

Seventh grade life science includes topics such as the scientific method, metric system, cell theory, chemistry of living things, genetics, classification, and a major emphasis on diversity of organisms and their adaptations to a variety of environments. In order to meet the various standards, students will interpret data, formulate hypotheses, and design and perform experiments. Students will produce reports that are organized, present ideas thoughtfully, and use appropriate vocabulary.

### **Student Textbooks:**

The books used are mini-books (Cells and Heredity, From Bacteria to Plants, Environmental Science, Animals) from the Life Science series by Prentice Hall.

### **Required Student Supplies:**

- Blue 3 ring binder
- Dividers
- Notebook paper
- Blue 2-pocket folder
- Blue book sock
- Pencils with erasers

## **Major Course Objectives:**

The student will be able to design (and/or) perform a controlled experiment and interpret the data gathered in order to draw conclusions.

The student will be able to demonstrate that the cell is the basic unit of life and cells are differentiated within the body to perform different functions.

The student will be able to utilize their understanding of the DNA molecule to explain how genetic traits are passed from one generation to the next.

The student will be able to explain the relationship between classification and evolution, reproductive success/survival in a particular environment, and how changes in the environmental conditions can affect the survival of populations of entire species.

The student will be able to describe what an ecosystem is and how organisms interact within it.

## **Major Projects/Labs:**

- Which exercise raises the heart rate the most? – formal lab report
- Investigation: Osmosis with Gummy Bears
- Where in the school environment will you find the most microorganisms? – formal lab report
- Natural Selection lab activity

## **Teacher Homework Policy:**

1. Homework assignments will be listed on the front blackboard and class web site.
2. Assignments should be written down in the student's planner!
3. Homework is due the NEXT day, except for long term projects or unless otherwise stated.
4. Points will be deducted for late homework unless you were absent or have another reasonable excuse.  
10% of the total points for each day late
5. Any homework that is more than 10 days late from the date that it was assigned is a ZERO and can not be handed in for credit!
6. Absent students are responsible for finding out what work they missed.
7. Homework will either be collected and graded or checked for completeness.

## **Teacher Grading Policy:**

Tests/Quizzes - 50% of marking period grade  
Homework - 25% of marking period grade  
Classwork/Labs - 25% of marking period grade

Letter grade:

A=100%-90%	- exceeded standard
B=89%-80%	- met standard
C=79%-70%	- nearly met standard
F=Grades below 70%	- did not meet standard

## **Classroom Management Plan:**

### Expected Classroom Behavior

Be Here...Be Ready  
Be Respectful  
Be Responsible  
Be Actively Engaged in Learning  
Follow Instructions the First Time  
Follow All Classroom Procedures

### Interventions

1. Verbal Warning
2. Student Conference
3. Teacher Detention
4. Parent & Guidance Contact
5. Code of Conduct Referral

Students will be given 24 hour notice to serve a teacher detention that will be served in room 206 from 3:00 to 3:30.

### **Extra Help:**

Extra help is available daily Monday - Thursday, 3:00-3:25, unless there is a meeting scheduled.