**Science 7 Course Outline -2015/2016 Teacher:** Mr. Bergsma

**Overview:**

The main goals of Science Education are to provide a science inquiry emphasis, a technological problem solving emphasis, and a societal decision-making emphasis in which students use the processes of science to answer questions about the nature of science. Students will draw upon science and technology concepts and skills to answer practical problems in science. Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of the nature of science and extend their knowledge on subjects that have been addressed in previous science curriculum.

**Materials Needed:**

Binder, looseleaf, calculator, pen, pencil, safety equipment (as required)

There are 5 units of study and the breakdown of each unit is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Unit Overview** | **Approximate Dates** |
| **Unit A – Interactions and Ecosystems**  This unit develops student awareness of ecosystem components and interactions, as well as natural cycles and processes of change. Students will investigate intended and unintended consequences of human activity. | **Sept 1 – Oct 23** |
| **Unit B – Structures and Forces**  Students will investigate types of structures and how they are designed using different properties of materials. Students will also investigate how loads and forces affect structures. | **Oct 26 – Dec 18** |
| **Unit C – Heat and Temperature**  Students will investigate sources and uses of heat energy and consider the impact of resource usage on our long-term ability to meet energy needs | **Jan 4 – Feb 26** |
| **Unit D – Planet Earth**  Students will investigate the composition and nature of Earth’s surface and discover patterns in the distribution of Earth’s materials. | **Feb 29 – Apr 29** |
| **Unit E – Plants for Food and Fibre**  Students will investigate selecting and breeding productive plant varieties and for maximizing their growth by modifying growing environments | **May 2 – June 1** |

**Course Evaluation:**

Assignments/Projects/Labs 30%

Quizzes 15%

Unit Tests 35%

Final Exam 20%

**School Website:**

This year I will be using the Vauxhall High School website to post all homework assignments and quiz and test dates. You can also click on links to check class policies, announcements, assignment descriptions, and due dates. **All homework and test dates will be placed on this website.** To access the website you need to visit <http://vhs.horizon.ab.ca/> and access the Online Homework page. You can find all relevant homework and other materials by looking under the Grade 7 homework site.

**Learning Resources:**

Textbook

Edwards, Lois et al. *Science Focus 7.*  Toronto, Ont.; McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited, 2001. (Basic Learning Resource)

Online Resources

www.learnalberta.ca

UserID: LA65

Password: 9678

<http://alberta.exambank.com/index.html>

Username: vauxhall

Password: vikings

**Expectations:**

**Assignments/Investigations**

- Student realizes that she/he is responsible for finding out what assignments and notes were missed when absent and arrange to get notes from a classmate and make up missed assignments.

- See homework, assignment and missed test policy section below.

**Quizzes**

- Quizzes will be given after 2 or 3 topics in each unit.

- Additional quizzes may be added at the teachers’ discretion.

- There will be no re-writes for quizzes but if the student improves and scores better on the unit test only the higher mark will be taken.

**Unit Tests**

**-** There will be a unit exam after each unit listed above.

-Students will study enough to be well prepared for tests. Student arranges for time with the teacher to get additional assistance if required.  
- Students will carefully make corrections on all tests.

- Re-writes will be determined on a case by case basis and only after meeting with the teacher.

**Assessment:**

This year I will be using two types of assessment:

**Formative Assessment** is used as assessment FOR learning and will not be taken for marks. It is essential that you complete these assignments and understand the material to prepare yourself for the summative assessment.

**Summative Assessment** is used as assessment OF learning and will be taken for marks. These may be in the form of assignments, quizzes and tests. It is very important to complete both formative and summative assessment to the best of your ability to achieve the highest possible grade in this class.

**Homework, Assignment and Missed Test Policy**

1. Students who are absent because of illness will be given up to an equivalent amount of time to complete all the work missed.
2. Students who are late with assignments will need to complete assignments on their own time (after school or before school). Habitually late students will enter the discipline process. ***Teachers will contact the parent after 3 lates or misses.***
3. Students who miss a test will be awarded a “0” as a placeholder, this does affect their grade but will be taken out when the student takes the test or finishes the assignment. Each student is responsible to make up tests on their own time.
4. Students who have conflicting appointments are responsible for notifying their teacher when a test, assignment or homework is announced as far in advance as possible.
5. Students who write on a different day the the rest of the class may be given an alternative form of test.

**Behaviour Expectations**

1. Student is seated with books and binders open before the bell rings for class and are attempting the bell work question of the day once the bell has gone.

b. Student is prepared for class (ie. has all necessary equipment: pencil, books, binders etc.)

c. Student raises hand and waits until called upon by teacher before asking or answering a question.

d. When teacher is talking, student is paying attention, making appropriate notes when necessary, and is willing to ask and answer questions.

e. Student works quietly on classroom assignments, respecting the right of others to work in a quiet environment.

f. Student respects the property and personal space of other students.

g. Student follows the directions of the teacher promptly and precisely.

h. Student keeps all notes, tests and assignments neatly and in order in a binder.