**Acadia Junior High Grade 7 Science Course Outline 2014 – 2015**

**Teacher:** Ms Maxwell **Phone Number:** 204 269 6210 **E-mail:** mmaxwell@pembinatrails.ca

**Class website:** Acadia homepage, click Staff, scroll to M. Maxwell, click homework-on-line.

 Click on the tab at the top for Grade 7 Science.

Acadia students will be studying many OUTCOMES from the following strands this school year. Chapter references from the SciencePower text are included below.

* Ecology – Chapters 1, 2, 3
* Pure Substances and Mixtures – Chapters 4, 5, 6
* Thermal Energy and Heat – Chapters 7, 8, 9
* Structures – Chapters 13, 14, 15
* Earth’s Crust – Chapters 10, 11, 12

The textbook is useful for learning vocabulary, is valuable for pre-reading, has excellent visuals, and has many study questions.

Required Materials for every class:

* Three ring binder with loose-leaf and graph paper
* Textbook SciencePower 7
* Pencil, ruler, eraser, blue pens, other colors of pens
* Highlighters
* Sticky notes - useful for bookmarking important pages in the text

**Assessment**

* + Term 1 and 2 marks are only an indication of the progress evident at the end of each of those terms – a “snapshot” of student progress at those moments in time. Both are cumulative from September.
	+ Term 3 is also cumulative from September. The Term 3 mark is worth 75% of the final mark. The final exam in June is worth 25% of the final mark.
	+ Term marks are calculated as follows:

70% = Knowledge & Understanding of Science Concepts

(Tests\*, Quizzes, Assignments, Projects)

30% = Inquiry (Tests\*, Projects, Experiments), Design & Problem Solving

(Tests\*, Design Challenges)

**\*On tests, there will be inquiry/design/problem-solving questions**

**Activities**

It is my opinion that much of science is learned in the world around us. I will be attempting to bring groups outdoors and for community walks, when learning can be provided there. Please fill in the volunteer information attached if you are able to volunteer so that these experiences can be provided more often.

**Extra Support**

**Day 4 and Day 6 from 11:40-12:30** will GENERALLY be a good time for students to come for extra help or space to work. If individualized attention is required for a topic of difficulty, please set up an appointment with me. I may ask students to attend **TLC Club at lunch hours** or at early dismissal **(2:35-3:30) on Thursdays** if their effort/performance is in need of support. It is obviously expected that students attend if requested to do so.

**Absences/Missed Classes**

\*It is the **student’s responsibility** to learn concepts missed while absent and complete the assigned work. Ideally, students will get work in advance of an absence. If this is not possible, there are several options:

* + an email can be sent to me requesting what was missed
	+ the homework-on-line can be checked (note that this site is not necessarily updated daily)
	+ the **red folder** in Room 104 will hold any missed worksheets

Please catch up before the next class.

**Laboratory Safety**

* Following all directions carefully and wearing lab safety equipment wear as per teacher’s instructions IS MANDATORY.
* Students must never drink or taste anything, nor misuse lab equipment.
* Demonstration of student disregard for their own or others safety will result in the student(s) removal from the laboratory.
* Further details will be provided before each laboratory experience.

**Classroom Expectations**

Expectations for BEFORE, DURING and AFTER class have been developed as a class and are listed on-line for parents and students.

Expectations will be posted in the classroom as a permanent reminder.

Students will receive a written copy of the expectations that we developed together as a class. RESPECT is the theme of these expectations.

**Parents-PLEASE read, sign & RETURN by Friday Sept 12, 2014**

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your family and to discussing ways to enhance your students’ science experiences. Please contact me sooner rather than later if there are any questions at all or concerns you may have. Please complete, and return this form to confirm that you have read this course outline. Including the e-mail address (es) where you would like to receive any notifications makes communication very easy!

You can be an active participant in your child’s learning by:

1) Providing quiet time and space for them to work in.

2) Checking the class homework on-line to stay informed of expectations/major due dates.

3) Contacting me if you feel that your student is not communicating honestly and/or frequently with you

 about their progress. I have told students that it is their responsibility to do so. If you feel they

 are not, please contact me.

4) Offering your expertise/experiences in the areas of study. I have found that

 parents are often an invaluable source of expertise in the four major areas of study. Sharing

 of this expertise can take many forms: conference calls, SKYPE interviews, classroom visits….

**Using the Class Website (Homework On-line)**

Your student’s first piece of homework is to

\*locate the homework-on-line and ask you to read the course outline (Your student has been

given a printed copy of the course outline)

\*ask you to sign the form attached to the end of the course outline. If you wish to have a paper copy of the form, it was **and still is** available in class in Room 104.

\*return the form to school by Friday September 12, 2014

A main idea of this exercise is so that your student knows where to find applicable information for the course. Homework will not likely be posted on-line every day. Major projects (including rubrics), major assessment dates and other vital information will always be posted.

PARENT SIGNATURE REQUIRED BY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2014 PLEASE

I have read Ms Maxwell’s Grade 7 Science course outline.

I have discussed the classroom expectations with my student.

 Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian(s) (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information**

Preferred email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Can I keep your name on a list as a potential volunteer for field trips/outdoor activities if needed? Depending on your availability at the time, of course, you may or may not be able to volunteer for specific future dates. This is no problem.

◊ Yes ◊ No

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