



Milwee Middle School
Pre-Engineering Magnet
SCPS Pre-IB/Gifted Life Science

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Learning Community: www.scps.edmodo.com/home
School Website: www.milwee.scps.k12.fl.us/

<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Daily Supplies Needed</u>
<p>This year we will work together to experience the excitement of making discoveries and discussions, thinking creatively, and solving problems through project-based and cooperative learning, while utilizing various forms of technology. This course is Pre-IB and a Pre-Engineering course, which emphasizes a rigorous curriculum, and will go in depth to increase student knowledge of Life Science.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three (3) Composition Notebooks• Notebook Paper• No. 2 Pencils or blue/black pens• One 3-pronged folder with pockets

Classroom Guidelines

1. Be Prepared and Ready to Learn

- Be on time to class.
- Have your pencils, pens and interactive notebook ready to use.

2. Be Respectful of Each Other and the Classroom

- Keep your hands and feet from hurting, distracting or disturbing others around you.
- Use encouraging, kind and helpful words to your classmates.
- Keep food, drinks and gum away from tables and lab areas unless given permission.
- Put away all materials, tools, instruments in their correct place after you have used them.

3. Be an Active Listener and Learner

- Listen carefully and intently to whoever is speaking.
- Raise your hand if you have a question or comment.
- Ask questions and contribute during class discussions.
- Make sure that you are doing your part in group projects, team activities both in and out of the classroom.
- Have electronics off and out of sight unless the teacher allows them for use in class.

4. Be Inquisitive and Inspiring

- Seek to understand the whys behind the “facts”.
- Help others understand and learn.
- Reach a little higher, go a little further, and *DO NOT GIVE UP!*

When in doubt: ***Spartans will RISE with Respect, Integrity, Safety and Excellence!***

Grading Policy

The following is the grading breakdown:

50%= Assessments (Includes **independent** work like quizzes, tests, writing assignments, projects)

25%= Assignments (Includes **collaborative** group activities and assignments)

5%= Homework

20% = SBA (Standards Based Assessment): *This mandatory category was set by Seminole County Public Schools for all schools and grade levels 6-12. This will go into effect at the end of the school year grading period only. Not using this category will NOT negatively impact the student's grade. Skyward will automatically correct the percentages to make it out of 100%. Skyward will be updated regularly and should be used consistently to monitor grades.*

New 4.0 Quality Point Grade Scale

A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	F = 0.0
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<u>Absent Work</u> The Milwee school-wide absent work policy applies: students will have one day in addition to the number of days absent to complete and submit make-up work. Students who have missed class should contact me as soon as possible either via email or my website for missing work. It is the student's responsibility to check the website to obtain make-up work and complete make-up work that was missed during an absence.	<u>Late Work</u> One letter grade is dropped for every class period late, until 2.0. Then the maximum a student can earn is a 2.0. <i>For example, if an assignment is due on Monday, the maximum can be a 3.0 if the student turns in the assignment on Wednesday, and a 2.0 if turned in on Friday or later.</i> You will receive a zero (0) if an assignment is not turned in. Late work will only be accepted until the end of the quarter for that marking period.
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Bathroom/Hall Passes: Milwee Universal Procedures will be used for bathroom and hall passes.

Behavior Consequences

- Verbal warnings, seat changes, parent phone call home and detentions will be possible consequences for poor behavior.
- Spartan Bucks, verbal praise, positive emails or phone calls home will be given to students who behave well or improve in their behavior.
- Students are expected to follow an honor code at all times regarding classroom supplies, homework, class work, quizzes and tests.

Science Routines

My goal this year is to have all the students to enjoy learning about Life Science by asking innovative questions, thinking creatively, and working hard to understand how living things live. To achieve our educational goals, the students will participate in the following types of activities. By varying the types of activities, different parts of the brain are engaged causing learning to take place. On any given day, the students may be participating in 3-4 of the following types of activities:

Bell Work	Team and Class Building Activities
Interactive Note-taking	Weekly Academic Vocabulary
Higher-Level Questioning	Labs and Homework
Formative assessments	Summative Assessments
Goal Setting	Individual Tracking of Progress
Critical Thinking	Debates and Presentations

Technology

The use of various forms of technology—both in class and outside of class—will be incorporated throughout the year. This will add more depth to class discussion, aid in team/class building activities, projects, research activities, assignments, quizzes, etc.

Websites we will be using daily/weekly:

- Skyward—grade updates, parent email and contact
- mcurrylifescience.weebly.com—class information, assignment lists, etc.
- Edmodo –class interaction, some quizzes, assignments, feedback, group work
- Remind —homework/test/project reminders to you and your parents
- kidsblog.org—student and class blogging

I will be giving you the class codes for these this week.

Project-Based Learning

These activities are designed to answer a question or solve a problem and, generally, reflect the types of learning and work people do in the everyday world, outside the classroom. The goal of the Pre-IB program and Pre-Engineering program at Milwee is to integrate science with other classes. Among the projects, students will be participating in are the following:

- **Quarterly School-wide Engineering Projects** in each grade level and across all core classes.
- **Science Fair:** An independent educational project that gives you hands-on experience, skills and knowledge in your own independent field of study involving science, math, or engineering.

Science Fair Projects will begin in late August, and will be due in late November or early December. Milestone assignments are given throughout the two grading periods to help ensure that students are staying on track for completion of their final project. **August 26th is Pre-IB Science Fair Parent Information Night.

•BOX TOP\$ – Please send in all Box Top\$. This provides money for the science department.

Acknowledge receipt of this letter by either of the options below:

_____ **Print return the this page only** _____

We have read and discussed the Life Science academic plan. This signed policy will be collected by Mrs. McCurdy and kept on file. Parents, please, include your email address so that I am able to contact you with any necessary information. Thank you and I look forward to teaching your child this year!

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Parent Email address: _____

OR

_____ **Email Option for acceptance** _____

By replying to this emailed document, you are agreeing that you and your child have read and discussed the Life Science academic plan. Mrs. McCurdy will keep a copy of your email on file.