**Course Syllabus**

***Swift Creek Middle School***

***2100 Pedrick Road***

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**Swift Creek**

**6th Grade Bridge Science**

***Choosing Excellence Every Day***

Course #: 2002050

Link to Florida Standards (NGSSS): <http://www.cpalms.org/Standards/FLStandardSearch.aspx>

Link to Common Core Standards (CCC): <http://www.corestandards.org>

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| **COURSE INSTRUCTOR** | **NAME** | | **Colleen Hosford** |
| **EMAIL ADDRESS** | | [hosfordc@leonschools.net](mailto:hosfordc@leonschools.net) |
| **WEBSITE** | | <http://mrshosfordscience.weebly.com> |
| **CONTACT INFO** | | Email is best. If email is unavailable, please leave your name, a call-back number, and a short message with the school receptionist. Your call will be returned at the first opportunity. |
| **COURSE DESCRIPTION** | This year, students will take a journey through the world of science and looking closely at the Nature and Practice of Science, Life Science, and Earth Science. Lessons will take an inquiry approach to learning and will include labs, Argument driven inquiries, projects, presentations, hands-on activities, higher order thinking skills and participating in science fair.  **1st 9 weeks:** The Practice of Science, The Characteristics of Scientific Knowledge, and The Role of Theories, Laws, Hypotheses, and Models. Science Fair will begin during this time.  **2nd 9 weeks:** Earth Structures, Systems, and Patterns  **3rd 9 weeks:** Organization and Development of Living Things, Human Growth and Development, and the Diversity and Evolution of Living Things  **4th 9 weeks:** Genetics and Interdependence.  \*All ESE/504/ESOL student accommodations will be provided within the classroom. | | |
| **COURSE RESOURCES** | **TEXTBOOK** | Students will not use an assigned science textbook. Students will use a variety of interactive resources. | |
| **MATERIALS** | Each student must bring these items to class EVERY DAY to be prepared for science class:   1. Pen or pencil (mechanical pencils are strongly encouraged). 2. Loose-leaf notebook paper (cannot be torn from a spiral). 3. 3 ring binder (with pockets and 5 dividers). 4. Library book or novel. 5. SCMS Planner | |
| **FEES** | In order to purchase materials for labs, **a small science lab fee ($5) will be collected** from each student. Additional collection may occur at the beginning of the second semester depending on necessity.  Various laboratory activities include – science inquiry labs, measurement labs, DNA labs, cell cookie activity, etc. | |
| **WEBSITE** | A list of **daily activities** and **homework** is available at my website <http://mrshosfordscience.weebly.com> | |
| **REQUIRED READING** | Science articles are intended as resources available in addition to classroom instruction. Students may be assigned readings outside of class and are encouraged to supplement in-class learning by familiarizing themselves with concepts from the different resources. | |
| **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS** | **All Swift Creek Middle School teachers expect students to adhere to the Leon County Schools Attendance Policy and Student Code of Conduct, which includes the dress code, and expectations of academic integrity such as cheating and plagiarism. These policies can be found on the Leon County Schools website at** [**www.leon.k12.fl.us**](http://www.leon.k12.fl.us)**, the school website at** [**www.swiftcreek.leon.k12.fl.us**](http://www.swiftcreek.leon.k12.fl.us)**, and in the agenda book distributed to each student.**  In this class, students will keep a discipline log which tracks behavioral issues. After initial warnings, students will enter their 1st offense in the log as an official warning. Their 2nd infraction will result in calling home and/or silent lunch, and their 3rd (and any subsequent infractions) will result in detention.  Serious offenses may result in immediate behavior referrals to the Dean of Students. | | |
| **GRADING POLICY** | **Student grades in this course will be weighted by category as follows:**  **70% – Formal Assessments** (Tests, Quizzes, Standard-Checks)  **15% – Investigations** (Lab Reports, Arguments, Lab Assignments, Group Projects)  **15% – Classwork** (Daily Assignments, Bell work, notebook checks) | | |
| **GRADING SCALE** | **In accordance with Leon County School Board policy, 9-wk grades will be assigned as follows:**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Letter Grade** | **Numerical Grade** | **Meaning of Grade** | | **A** | 90-100 | *The student displays mastery of course content.* | | **B** | 80-89 | *The student has a good understanding of course content. There is room for student improvement.* | | **C** | 70-79 | *The student is successful with most assignments. Gaps may exist in the understanding of difficult topics. Tutorials and/or attention to good study habits may be necessary.* | | **D** | 60-69 | *The student is having difficulty with course content; assistance is necessary for student improvement.* | | **F** | 0-59 | *The student has major difficulty with course content. Immediate intervention is necessary.* | | | |
| **HOMEWORK** | Homework will be assigned when necessary to enhance student learning. Homework in this course will consist mostly of writing lab reports and arguments, reading assigned content, as well as completing unfinished class work. | | |
| **MAKE-UP WORK PROCEDURES** | **Leon County School Board Policy allows students to make up work within a reasonable amount of time after returning to school following an excused absence. The allotted time will be determined by district policy and communicated by the teacher to both parent(s) and the student.**  **Specific Teacher :**   1. Check Daily lesson Plan on Mrs. Hosford’s website: <http://mrshosfordscience.weebly.com> (if possible complete the assignment at home) 2. When you return (if you haven’t already gotten the assignment) check the “Planner Board.” Any handouts/worksheets can be found in the “make-up work” folders at the back of the room. Write “absent” in the previous days bell work OR ask a classmate for the bell work for the day(s) you were absent if desired. 3. You have two days to complete a missed assignment or make-up a quiz/test. At the top of the assignment, write “Absent” and the date you were absent. If you miss a quiz or test, it is YOUR responsibility to schedule a make-up time with me. | | |
| **LATE WORK POLICY** | Major projects and lab reports will have 10% deducted each day they are late up to 3 days and then half credit will be the maximum earned score. | | |
| **ASSIGNMENT**  **RE-DO POLICY & PROCEDURES** | Students are given an opportunity to re-take tests if they score less than a 70%(this does NOT include semester exams!). Students may ask for a re-test after evidence of additional studying; they will receive a maximum score of 70%. Students will have the opportunity to revise the final draft of their lab reports during any investigation. Their grade will reflect the highest score achieved. | | |
| **EXTRA HELP OPPORTUNITIES** | Students who wish to receive extra help may **schedule** a time to come in before school (except on days I am scheduled for a parent conference or morning duty). Students may also email questions, though I may not have the opportunity to answer until the following morning. | | |
| **SCIENCE FAIR** | **Students in the Bridge program are required to participate in the school science fair.**  Information about the requirements for science fair will be discussed in class and sent home for your review. Some class time will be devoted to working on science fair projects, but **students should expect the majority of their projects to be completed outside of class**. | | |

Leon County Schools Non-Discrimination Statement

“The Leon County School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex (including transgender status, gender nonconforming, and gender identity), marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status, or genetic information.”

LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Equity Office

Dr. Kathleen Rodgers (850) 487-7306