



**Course:** 7th Grade Comprehensive Science 2

**Academic Year:** 2022-2023

**Teacher:** Mr. Jesse Potts

[jpotts@fsu.edu](mailto:jpotts@fsu.edu)

**The email above is the preferred method of communication.**

### **Description of Course/ Units of Study**

Comprehensive Science 2 is the second course in the M/J Comprehensive Science Sequence. In this course students explore: The Foundations of Science, Energy, The Earth and Its Features, The Earth's Internal and External Structures and How They Change, The Earth's History, Living Things and How They Change and Interact, Genetics and Heredity, and The Organization of The Living World. Some of these topics serve as a foundation for succeeding in science course(s) and are discussed in detail. Students will learn through real world examples and discuss science in action all over the world. Students will participate in activities, laboratory experiences, and ADIs to apply what they have learned.

**HMH Florida Science 7** is the required **textbook** that will be used for this course throughout the year. Students will be given a consumable textbook and have access to an online textbook. Current events and concept related articles will also be used during the course of the year to enhance the learning of concepts.

### **Class Materials** (For other needed materials refer to the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Supply List)

Students will need the following materials each day:

- *Composition notebook as indicated on supply list.*
- *Pencils/Blue or Black Ink Pens*

**Grading Policy/Class Rules/Class Procedures:** *At FSUS students have a right to learn in a safe and respectful environment. All students will be expected to adhere to attendance and behavior expectations in our FSUS Code of Conduct and in the Nole Note behavior system. Please see our website for more information. Specific rules for this class are as follows:*

#### ***Grading Categories:***

#### ***Assessments (Tests, Quizzes, Projects, ADIs/Comprehensive Labs) - 60%***

Tests and Lab Reports (Assessment) 35 %

Quizzes (Assessment) 25 %

#### ***Practice (Homework, Classwork, Participation, Inquiry (Learning) Activity/Labs) – 40%***

Interactive Notebooks, Learning Labs and Stations (Practice) 25 %

Homework, Classwork (Practice) 15 %

A designated number of points will be offered for each test, assignment, project, etc.. The number of points designated for each assessment will be determined based on the importance, level of difficulty, time required, and overall academic value of the particular assessment. Incomplete, poorly executed, or missing work will affect the number of points earned and consequently, your grade.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the FSUS Policies and Grading Standards.

90 - 100 is an “A”, 80 - 89 is a “B”, 70 – 79 is a “C”, 60 – 69 is a “D” and 59 and below is an “F”.

**Makeup work:** The FSUS Student Code of Conduct will be followed regarding absences. Therefore, students will have 2 days per excused absence to turn in work for possible full credit. It is the student’s responsibility, not the teacher’s, to make arrangements for make-up work. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in a grade of zero.

**Late work:** Work should be submitted by the due date given (and in Focus). In the event that a due date is missed, students have the opportunity to submit late work within 2 days (of the due date) for up to a maximum of 50% credit. Please note that late work will not be accepted for credit after the two days, so please check Focus to avoid receiving a zero.

**Extra Credit:** Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit assigned or accepted.

**Work with No Names:** Work will be graded with the period it was turned in with, then placed in the designated “No Name” area. All “no name” work must be claimed and turned in a week before the end of the quarter.

**Extra Help/Tutoring:** *Students are urged to seek assistance* when the need arises. I will be here every day until 3:30, at least, with the exception of teacher meetings. Please contact me so we can coordinate the day/time.

**Classroom Expectations:** Students are expected to:

- Follow all FSUS rules as printed in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Follow our 3 class rules:
  - Be Respectful
  - Be Prompt
  - Be Prepared

#### **What can you expect of your teacher?**

- I take your education and learning experience, especially in science, very seriously.
- I will enforce school policies (punctuality, dress code, hall passes, etc.).
- I will give you every opportunity to learn and understand Comprehensive Science.
- I will treat you with respect.
- I expect the same from each of you.

**Behavior:** All students are expected to follow the FSUS Code of Conduct and the consequences for any unacceptable behavior will be given as outlined in that Code. In addition, FSUS Middle School utilizes the Nole Note system in order to promote student ownership in behavior monitoring. Nole Notes are written for minor infractions and incremental consequences are outlined on the FSUS Middle School website. The goal of the Nole Note Behavior system is to reduce undesired behavior, in turn, minimizing the amount of behavioral referrals.

**Tardiness:** Students are expected to come to class **on time**, prepared with all materials required to be successful in science class. If students are late to class, the school policy on tardiness will be followed. A student will receive a tardy referral if **five (5)** tardies are accumulated in any one class period.

**Cheating:** Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a referral and a zero for the assignment, lab, quiz, or test. *As stated in the code of conduct, cheating on **any assignment** will result in consequences for **ALL** students involved.*

**Laboratory Responsibilities:** Lab time is essential to both learning and applying skills. Labs are not play time! Lab safety violations will result in alternative assignments, possible dismissal from the lab, and loss of credit for the lab and/or deduction of your grade for the lab. Damaged or broken lab equipment caused from mishandling, misuse, carelessness or failure to follow directions will be charged to the student. **Students will be required to score a minimum grade of 90% on the lab safety test, to participate in lab activities.**

**Argumentation and STEM:** The Argument-Driven Inquiry instructional model is a major component of secondary science at FSUS. This model promotes learning by integrating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as reading, writing and communication skills in inquiry-based lab experiences. The ADI model also helps students develop critical thinking skills by emphasizing the important role argumentation plays in the generation and validation of scientific knowledge.

**Cell Phone policy:** Electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, etc) must be turned off and put away in the classroom cell phone holder. Phones are not to be charged using classroom outlets or computers. Students will not photograph or record students or adults. If a student does not comply with the technology policy, consequences outlined in the FSUS Code of Conduct will occur.

**Scheduling a conference:** Class time is devoted to student learning experiences. Because time on task is critical for learning content, I am not available to answer phone calls during the day. The best form of communication is FOCUS messenger or email and I will reply during non-instructional hours. If you would like to discuss an issue that is specific to my class, please get in touch with me and we will resolve the issue. If you need to meet with the entire 7th grade team, email Lisa Kelley, Dean of Academics at [lkelly@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:lkelly@admin.fsu.edu) and she will schedule our conference.

If students are struggling, please encourage them to speak with me in class and/or contact me via FOCUS messenger or email.

**Acknowledgement**

*The signatures below indicate that the Comprehensive Science 2 Policies have been read and understood by both the student and parent. It is the student's responsibility to adhere to all classroom policies and to the policies listed in the FSUS Student/Parent Handbook.*

*I look forward to helping your child achieve the goals that they have set for themselves this year!*

*Student's Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Student's Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent's Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent's Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\*\*\*\*Return THIS PAGE ONLY to Mr. Potts by Friday, 8/12/22 - counts as a classwork grade \*\*\*\***