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| Instructor | Amy Cochran | Phone | (770) 904-3690 |
| Planning Time | 1:45 – 2:45 pm | E-mail | amy.cochran[@bufordcityschools.org](mailto:lauren.larson@bufordcityschools.org) |

Website [bmscochran.weebly.com](http://www.bmslarson.weebly.com)

This year you will be studying life science to prepare you for high school biology. You will learn how to think and investigate like a scientist. A detailed list of what you will learn can be found at www.georgiastandards.org. The units we will cover include:

* the characteristics of science and scientists
* the diversity of living organisms and how they can be compared scientifically
* the structure and function of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems
* how biological traits are passed on to successive generations
* the dependence of organisms on one another and their environments
* the evolution of living organisms through inherited characteristics

Grades:

**Summative: 60% of final grade**

Tests & Projects 45%

Benchmarks 15%

**Formative:** **40% of final grade**

Labs & Activities 25%

Quizzes 10%

Class Work & Homework 5%

**Note: No extra credit is offered.**

**Make-Up Work**

It is your responsibility to make up all missed assignments due to absences. You are expected to get missed handouts and notes. You are allowed the number of days you were absent plus one to hand in those assignments without deducted points.

**Late Work Policy**

Assignments may be accepted for two days with ten points off per day. Assignments may not be accepted on or after the third day.

**How to Succeed in Science:**

* Always come to class prepared with paper, pencils/pens, and your Science binder.
* Always do your assignments. Sometimes an assignment is studying for a quiz or test.
* You will need to study for tests. Science is not like math where you practice in class and then do the same thing on the tests. Science involves a lot of new vocabulary and it is important that you spend some time at home studying what we do in class.
* Ask questions and get involved in class discussions! It makes class more enjoyable and you will learn more.
* Keep a positive attitude. You can succeed in Science!

**WebPages:**

Each teacher at BMS has his or her own website for posting important dates and information. To access teachers’ web pages:

* Go to Buford Middle Schools’ homepage, <http://www.bufordms.org>.
* Click on the “BMS Teams” tab. Choose “7th Grade”.
* Each teacher’s name is listed with [website] and [email]. Choose “website” and you will be taken to their page.

Most of the information for this course will come from PowerPoint Presentations, notes sheets, some worksheets, and other activities. I include most of these on my website or on Google Classroom. You may use these for review and it is a great resource if you are absent.

I hope you will find this an easy way to stay informed regarding the course. Feel free to contact me via e-mail at any time. I may not be able to respond immediately, but will get back to you as time permits. Thanks so much for your support, and let’s have a wonderful year together in 7th grade!