Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selection and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school’s guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Life Science is a laboratory and activity-centered program that provides students with a broad foundation in the biological sciences. Topics range from cells, plants, and animals to heredity and career opportunities. Laboratory investigations and activities are the primary means for developing problem-solving skills and for understanding scientific concepts and principles. Students will develop inquiry and problem-solving skills through scientific investigation. Research and decision-making skills are further developed through the investigation of local or national issues and concerns that result from the interaction of science, technology, and society.

COURSE GOALS
• Develop a foundation of concepts and principles in the life sciences
• Develop problem-solving and decision-making skills through experimentation, research, and discussion
• Develop an awareness of the interdisciplinary nature of science and its relevance to society
• Develop basic communication skills
• Explore the application of scientific principles in careers and in other areas of interest
• Provide reading and study skills

PREREQUISITE
Sixth-grade science

OPTION FOR NEXT COURSE
Physical Science 8

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOKS
Glencoe Science: Life Science, 2008

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of all core objectives through laboratory investigations, issue investigations, projects, and oral and/or written tests, quizzes, and reports
• Participate in the laboratory experiences, adhering to all safety procedures
• Prepare written reports for laboratory activities
• Investigate career opportunities and areas of interest in the life sciences
THE INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES THAT COMPRISE THE GRADE 7 LIFE SCIENCE COURSE ARE LISTED AS FOLLOWS FROM THE PRESCRIBED CURRICULUM:

- Demonstrate an understanding of scientific reasoning, logic, and the nature of science by planning and conducting investigations.
- Investigate and understand that all living things are composed of cells.
- Investigate and understand that living things show patterns of cellular organization.
- Investigate and understand how organisms can be classified.
- Investigate and understand the basic physical and chemical processes of photosynthesis and its importance to plant and animal life.
- Investigate and understand that organisms within an ecosystem are dependent on one another and on nonliving components of the environment.
- Investigate and understand that interactions exist among members of a population.
- Investigate and understand how organisms adapt to biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem.
- Investigate and understand that ecosystems, communities, populations, and organisms are dynamic, change over time, and respond to daily, seasonal, and long-term changes in their environment.
- Investigate and understand the relationships between ecosystem dynamics and human activity.
- Investigate and understand that organisms reproduce and transmit genetic information to new generations.
- Investigate and understand that populations of organisms change over time.
Mission Statement

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

Dr. James G. Merrill, Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
2512 George Mason Drive • P. O. Box 6038 • Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-0038

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For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone (757) 263-1070 or (757) 263-1429; fax (757) 263-1424; TDD (757) 263-1240

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CIE-0005 (Revised 8/12)