

Seventh Grade Science Course Guidelines / Mrs. Fitzgerald

Contact Information

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Course Objectives

- To provide an introductory survey of integrated life science and physical science concepts.
- To understand the need for stewardship on campus and in our community.
- To develop science inquiry process and writing skills.
- To establish strong laboratory skills.

Materials

Science binder with paper and dividers
Matter and Energy in the Biosphere, FAST 2 (kept in classroom)
Student Record Book (clipped into notebook)
Survival of the Sickest

Assessment

- Projects - projects will be assessed with a specific rubric and point values will vary according to length and involvement.
- Quizzes/Tests - Quizzes may be announced 2 to 3 days in advance. Tests will be announced one week in advance. Quizzes may range in point value from 10 to 25 points. Tests will be approximately 70 points. Students who miss a test due to an unexcused absence will take the test on the day of their return. Students who miss a test due to an excused absence will take the test up to 2 days after they return.
- Lab Work - students will write lab reports and partial lab reports for designated lab exercises. Reports will be assessed with a rubric. Lab Report guidelines will be distributed in class.
- Notebook - organization is important to successful studying and data collection. Students will keep their notebook organized according to the Notebook Guidelines. I will perform Notebook Checks twice per trimester, and notebooks will be assessed using a rubric that is scored out of 20 points.

Grade Record Sheet

The Grade Record Sheet is a tool that allows students to keep track of their own progress in each course. The Grade Record Sheet also helps students communicate their progress to their parents. Students receive a Grade Record Sheet (GRS) during the first week of school. The Science GRS is kept in the Science Notebook at all times. When students receive graded assignments, they will have time to enter their grades on their GRS. The course average should be updated after every new entry.

Portfolio

For each science unit students have a set of objectives that guide their studies. A portfolio is a way to collect student work and keep track of how students master each objective. In Science, the science notebook holds portfolio work during a unit. Once students finish a unit, portfolio work is moved to a hanging folder in the classroom.

Excused Absences (illness, doctor's appointments, etc.)

Students are responsible for asking teachers for missed assignments as soon as they return. Please check the Absence Notebook for class notes and handouts. The most convenient time to see Mrs. Fitzgerald about missed work is before school or after school - not during class. Late work should be completed within the two days after returning to school unless other arrangements are made with the teacher. Students who miss a test due to an excused absence will take the test up to 2 days after they return.

Unexcused Absences (family trips, etc.)

Students who know they will be absent ahead of time should give one week's notice to the Head of School and to teachers. Teachers will determine whether work should be done before or after the absence. Students who miss a test due to an unexcused absence will take the test on the day of their return unless other arrangements are made with the teacher. Please check the Absence Notebook for class notes and handouts.

Late Work

Late homework is not accepted and the student will receive a zero. Late reports and projects will be docked 10% one day after the due date and 50% two days after the due date. Projects and reports not received one week after the due date will receive a zero. Students who fail to schedule or take a missed quiz or test within the designated time after return will lose 10% per day.