

Twin Falls School District

Life Science

Grade 7



Course Description:

This is an inquisitive hands-on study of our living world. The course consists of investigations using the scientific method and a variety of scientific tools. Units of study include: learning to work in labs, cell theory, reproduction, genetics, classification systems, and diversity of life.

Instructional Philosophy:

We believe all students should have the opportunity to achieve the skills needed to succeed in life. This includes being academic achievers, clear communicators, responsible citizens, complex thinkers, and quality producers with the realization that learning is a lifelong process. It is our belief that students achieve self-esteem by experiencing successes and meeting educational challenges. Students should have the confidence to make reasonable choices.

Power Standards:

Standard 1: Students understand and apply the basic scientific inquiry process skills.

Standard 2: Students understand how species depend on one another and on the environment for survival.

Standard 3: Students understand organization within living organisms.

Standard 4: Students understand the genetic basis for the transfer of biological characteristics from one generation to the next.

Standard 5: Students understand the diversity and unity that characterize life.

Major Course Projects and Assignments:

1. Students will produce one model to demonstrate a concept.
2. Students will produce one written research project with at least 3 sources (at least 1 non-internet source required).

Assessment and Grading Plan:

Project will be graded using a standard rubric.

- Rubric will be provided to students before each project.

Grading Scale:

A = 90 -100%

D = 60 – 69%

B = 80 – 89%

F = 0 – 59%

C = 70 – 79%

I = Incomplete (must be satisfactorily completed in given time limit)

Components of the Grade:

Labs/Group Activities

Summative Assessments

Formative Assessments

Projects

Individual Assignments

Power of I:

All assignments are expected to be completed and ready to turn in on the assigned due date. In order to help all students learn more and achieve higher grades, students will not be allowed to take a zero for a grade due to incomplete or substandard work. Students who have not completed any assignment will be required to complete the work to a satisfactory standard. You will receive a grade for being responsible and turning in your completed work. Late work will affect your overall grade.

Policy for Re-Doing Work:

Retest opportunities will be given to any student who has completed all required work. A one week window of opportunity will be provided after each test for retakes. The highest grade earned will be the grade recorded.

Opportunities for Extra Help:

Teacher help available upon request.

Grading Rubrics:

Labs and projects will be graded using rubrics. Rubric will be provided to students before each project.