7th Grade Science

**2020-2021 School Year
Instructor: Mrs. Sarah Kelly**

**Contact Info:** **sarah.kelly@dmschools.org****, teams or 515-635-1596**

**Course Description for General Education 7th Grade Science**

Course Info:

Standards/Performance expectations at the 7th level focus on students developing an understanding of the scientific practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts imbedded in the Iowa Core Science Standards. Your science instruction should go beyond what is stated in the standards when it is required to accurately portray the nature of science and provide a greater context for student understanding. Our instructions should focus on a holistic approach to science by incorporating additional practices, idea, and concepts when they needed to support the student’s understanding of the natural world.

Grades: 7th

**Scope and Sequence:**

|  |
| --- |
| Content Topic |
| A. Energy |
| B. Forces and Interactions |
| C. Movements in the Solar System |
| D. Classifying Objects in the Solar System |
| End of Semester 1 (January) |
| E. Extinction and Geologic Time |
| F. Genetics and Natural Selection |
| G. Energy in Living Systems |
| H. Ecosystems |
| I. Human Impacts on Biodiversity |

**Course Requirements**

This course is designed to completed in one school year.  ***It is recommended that you follow the pace of the modules and due dates in order to complete the class on time.***  If at any point you have any questions regarding pace or instruction, please feel free to reach out to me via Canvas or Teams.

You will need the following **materials** in order to be successful in this class:

* Ruler
* Graph paper
* Notebook or scratch paper
* Pencils
* Highlighter
* Colored pencils or markers
* Optional- Stylus (pen that can be used on the touch screen)

\*Please let your teacher know if you are in need of supplies, we will be happy to help!

**Attendance:**

[*Insert attendance policy for virtual and hybrid option*]

**Telecommuting and Virtual Learning**

Just as students have the ability to complete their school work wherever they choose teachers also have the same ability. While teachers are frequently located at Brody Middle School or online it is highly encouraged that a student reaches out to their teacher if there is a need to meet virtually. The most ideal way to get help will be to reach out to your teacher through Microsoft Teams, district email, SchoolCNXT, or your teacher’s Google voice number 515-635-1596.

**Communication Policy**

Brody teachers can be reached through Microsoft Teams Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:45 pm.  Teachers also will make every effort to adhere here to 2-hour response time or less during the workday and depending on the time in which the communication is sent, the teacher may not respond until the next day of business. Communication sent after business hours will be answered the next business day.

**Grading Policies and Procedures**

All courses in Canvas will have a built-in grade book where students can view feedback on each assignment a student completes. While Canvas is where students complete all of the coursework and where daily grades can be seen, **Infinite Campus is the official grade book where transcripts are generated. Infinite Campus will be updated regularly as students complete learning targets and whole topics.**

**Grading Scales**

Final grades in Infinite Campus will follow the format below.

*4.0 -3.0 = Demonstrates deep understanding beyond the learning target, equivalent to traditional ‘A’
2.5 = Meeting grade level proficiency, equivalent to traditional ‘B’
2.0= Developing towards proficiency, equivalent to traditional ‘C’
1.75 = Below grade-level proficiency, equivalent to traditional ‘D’
1.0 or below = No/ lack of evidence of proficiency, equivalent to traditional ‘F’*

*At the end of the course, student’s topic scores must average at least a 1.75 to earn a passing score per district policy. For clarification on this policy, please communicate to share your questions or concerns.*

**IB Grading**

MYP assigns four (4) criteria to each subject. Each teacher must assess each criterion two times per semester. Criteria based assessments are assessed using an MYP 8-point rubric. When more than one criterion is assessed in a task, there will be multiple grades. For example if an essay is assessed using Criteria A: Analyzing, B: Organizing C: Producing Text, and D: Using Language, then the teacher will input a separate score for each criterion, thus there will be four (4) grades for the essay.

The Assessment Criteria for all eight subject areas are listed below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject Area** | **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** |
| Language and Literature (formerly known as English Language Arts) | Analyzing | Organizing | Producing Text | Using Language |
| Language Acquisition (formerly known as World Language) | Comprehending Spoken and Visual Text | Comprehending Written and Visual Text | Communicating | Using Language |
| Individuals and Societies (formerly known as history and/or social science) | Knowing and Understanding | Investigating | Communicating | Thinking Critically |
| Sciences | Knowing and Understanding | Inquiring and Designing | Processing and Evaluating | Reflecting on the Impacts of Science |
| Mathematics | Knowing and Understanding | Investigating Patterns | Communicating | Applying Mathematics in Real-World Contexts |
| Arts           (visual and performing) | Knowing and Understanding | Developing Skills | Thinking Creatively | Responding |
| Physical and Health Education | Knowing and Understanding | Planning for Performance | Applying and Performing | Reflecting and Improving Performance |
| Design (technology & culinary courses) | Inquiring and Analyzing | Developing Ideas | Creating the Solution | Evaluating |

**Digital Citizenship and Classroom Civility**

Because this is a online class, you will mostly be communicating with me and others through email, discussion forums, and other online communication. It is important to think of this communication as a formal dialogue. Be sure that in all communication you create an appropriate subject line, identify yourself, and craft professionally worded content. For example, shorthand messages from your cell phone are generally inappropriate. Always submit assignments through Canvas and never via email.

**\*\*\*Review the Course Summary below, for a weekly breakdown of the items to be completed.\*\*\***