

7th Grade Life Science

Ms. Devon Vojtech • 651-467-9896 (Google Voice) • devon.vojtech@spps.org

Life Science 7 is a year-long introductory biological science course that introduces life science concepts. Students will investigate real world phenomena by asking questions, developing models, and completing investigations. This is an IB-MYP (International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme) course, which values communication, holistic learning, and intercultural awareness. Life Science 7 meets the life science requirements for middle school and prepares scholars for future science courses.

Required Materials

Wide-Ruled Composition Notebook

Assignments and Grading

Life Science 7 follows the district's A–N grading scale. Students will receive a final grade for each quarter (A–N), as well as a progress grade at mid-quarter. Scholars are graded based on formative science notebooks and summative projects.

Late work policy: While we encourage all students to turn in work on time, we will accept work through the end of the quarter in which it was assigned.

Projects-Summative Assessments (60%)

Summative assessments will be completed either mid-way through a unit or at the end of the unit. Scholars will have advanced notice of summative assessments and grading rubrics.

Practice-Formative Assessments (40%)

Formative assessments will be completed throughout the unit.

IB-MYP General Grading Rubric

The purpose of assessment is to provide feedback to students and feedback to teachers to inform their teaching. Teachers will sometimes assign work that is graded for completion where 2 points=complete, 1 point=partially complete, and 0 points=missing. This is often for simple assignments, such as warm-ups or exit tickets that provide teachers with feedback on student understanding. When teachers are providing feedback to students on the quality of their work, they will use the IB achievement levels (0-8) to provide more detailed feedback.

IB teachers assess work using content-specific rubrics to determine students' current level of achievement as students demonstrate their abilities in terms of the four objectives. These levels will be reported in Schoology. However, as a school district we still use traditional letter grades, so we use the following scale to interpret the IB scores and transfer them to letter grade.

| Level of achievement | General descriptors | Letter grade equivalent |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 0 | Does not meet standards | N |
| 1-2 | Limited achievement (incomplete, few, simple) | D- to D+ |
| 3-4 | Adequate achievement (some, satisfactory) | C- to C+ |
| 5-6 | Substantial achievement (sufficient, considerable, mostly) | B- to A- |
| 7-8 | Excellent achievement (detailed, thorough, perceptive, effective, clear) | A to A+ |