7th grade Life Science

Mrs. Towery

Andrea Towery • ATowery@helenaschools.org • (406) 324 -1061

Course Description

Welcome to 7th grade science! This year we will be learning about life- how organisms survive, reproduce, interact with one another and their environment, and how life on Earth has changed over time. Science isn't simply a body of knowledge; it is a process of investigating and a way of constructing understanding about the natural world. In this class, you will be the scientists, developing your critical thinking skills and engaging in the practices that real-life scientists and engineers use everyday in their jobs. Be prepared to ask questions, make observations, develop ideas, communicate your findings, and have fun!

Unit of Study	Essential Question
Microbiome	How can having 100 trillion microorganisms in the human body keep us healthy?
Metabolism	What is causing Elisa, a young patient, to feel tired all the time?
Traits and Reproduction	Why do Darwin's bark spider offspring have different silk flexibility traits even though they have the same parents?
Populations and Resources	What caused the size of the moon jelly population in Glacier Sea to increase?
Matter and Energy in Ecosystems	Why did the Biodome ecosystem collapse?
Natural Selection	What caused the newt population in Oregon State Park to become more poisonous?
Evolutionary History	Is this mystery fossil more closely related to wolves or whales?

Course Grade

Your course grade reflects your achievement of learning targets and daily class participation. Each assignment and assessment is based on specific learning targets connected to the MT State Science Standards. Grades will be updated weekly. The course grade consists of the following weighted categories and will use the district's letter grade scale.

Category	Assignment Types	Weight
Learning Target Assessments Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the Montana State Science Standards	• End of Chapter Tasks • Written Scientific Arguments • Science Seminar Discussions • Quizzes • Critical Juncture (mid-unit check of understanding) • End of Unit Assessments • Final Proposals (for Engineering Units)	70 %
Habits of Work A measure of class participation and practice with new concepts and skills.	▪ Classwork ▪ End of chapter/unit reflections & surveys ▪ Notebook checks	30%

Class Supplies

REQUIRED (Daily)

- Single-subject notebook for Science only
- Pencil
- Corded Computer Mouse (USB's get lost easily)

OPTIONAL (but helpful!)

- Water bottle
- Folder to organize class handouts
- Highlighters (green, yellow, pink)
- Colored pencils

Class Resources & Communication

Assignments and class resources may be posted in either Teams or Amplify. You can access both on a home computer through Clever.

TEAMS

Teams is your one-stop shop for class communication and resources. I will post class announcements, reminders, assignments and summary slideshows for lessons in Teams. There is also a link to my Weekly Agenda in a Teams Channel. This is the best place to find out missed work or get additional support when completing classwork outside of school.

AMPLIFY

We will be using the Amplify digital curriculum in this class. However, I would like to reduce screen-time and many assignments will be completed on paper.

Absences, Late Work, and Corrected Work

Absent? It is your responsibility to find out what you missed by checking my weekly agenda and complete the makeup work. Missed handouts can be found in my absent work folder.

Late and Corrected Assignments are accepted during the unit in which they are assigned. I want to give you every opportunity to complete assignments and understand the content. For every assignment, you may complete one "re-do" to improve your grade. Late work will not be accepted after the End of Unit Assessment.

Submitting Absent/Late Work: You must communicate that you have turned in digital absent/late/corrected work by sending me a Team's Chat message with the name of the assignment. Graded on Thursdays

Class Expectations

1) Be Respectful
2) Be On Time and Prepared to Learn
3) Be a Responsible, Active Learner- Everyone Participates
4) Be Safe- follow lab procedures and lab safety contract
5) Use Your Class Time Wisely
6) Clean up your workspace and all class materials
7) Use technology appropriately

Consequences for failure to meet class expectations may include a verbal warning, private discussion with me, call home, lunch detention, after school detention or office referral.

Leaving the Classroom

You need to gather supplies, get water, use the restroom during passing time. We follow the **20/10 Rule** in my class. There are no passes out of the classroom for the first **20 minutes** of class and the last **10** minutes. BE HERE! BE A LEARNER!

Tardies

You need to be in your seat, working on the Bell Ringer, when the bell rings. A trip to your locker for forgotten supplies will result in a tardy. If you receive **more than 3 tardies,** a detention will be issued.

Technology

Cell phone use is not allowed in class. Chromebook use is for educational purposes only. No games, Youtube,etc. Technology use is a privilege.