Evaluation Strategies

8th Grade Science

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Over the course of the year this class will be evaluated in multiple ways with many summative and formative assessments. Some methods will include written response, verbal, lab-based, hands-on, and multimedia presentation or video creation. Each method of assessment will coincide with the method of instruction by which the material was presented. Both formal and informal assessments will be presented to monitor student progress.

Common formative assessments will be designed by the teacher teams for each unit and given to the students to collect data. This data will be analyzed to find gaps in student learning. Teacher based teams of both subject based and grade level based groups will collaborate and discuss the data. This data will then help teachers share successful strategies and improve instruction in areas of highest need. The teacher based teams will report to the curriculum director and building principal a plan to improve the instruction within their subject area or areas.

Student achievement will be assessed in other ways as well. Aside from common formative assessments informal formal assessments will be utilized to keep track of student understanding. These may include, but are not limited to, notebook quizzes, talking cards, student-generated tasks, games and exit slips. Each strategy will serve will be used to help monitor student growth, but be limited in its effect on student grades.

Student will also be evaluated with hand-on, inquiry based exercises. During these exercise points will be associated with doing and verbalizing answers to teacher and student created questions. Cooperative learning will be part of this evaluation as proper cooperative learning skills will be monitored and evaluated to achieve the highest levels of student understanding. Ultimately the written responses will account for the majority of the grade as students will use this portion of the exercise to support and justify their data and draw conclusions.

Homework will be given to reinforce the information received during instruction. This homework will be used to evaluate what the students have learned and find gaps in understanding for individual students. Homework will be evaluated on correctness and on effort given. The homework will appear in many forms. Some homework will be research based presentations, others will be video and technology based, while other homework will be worksheets.

Writing assignments will be utilized to help the instructor understand the level at which students can assess information, draw conclusions, and support ideas about that topic. These assignments will be graded using a scale that the students will have prior to completions of the assignments. Writing assignments will be completed as both classwork and homework. Writing assignments could also incorporate dynamics of cooperative learning allowing students to help each other develop and support their ideas.

One of the main goals of any school is to prepare students for the statewide standardized achievement assessments. To help students prepare all testing will utilize the same format as state achievement assessments. Unit tests will be given prior to students learning material then post tests will evaluate growth in student understanding. The post test will be counted as a large portion of the student grades; accounting for the importance associated with state based assessments.

These are methods will be used to aid instructors in the creation and evaluation of both the course and the students. By targeting cooperative and individual learning teachers will have twice the data to drive educational changes to the curriculum. Likewise, students will have multiple methods by which to learn and respond to the information in class. The multiple styles of evaluation provide ample opportunity for students to demonstrate a growth and knowledge and to reinforce the information for future use.