

Science Philosophy Statement
David Douglas School District
Authored by the Science Task Force 2012

In David Douglas we believe quality science instruction is characterized by...

A curriculum that...

- emphasizes rigorous state and common core standards for achievement focusing on the achievement of all students of varying needs and diversity of learning.
- integrates multiple disciplines and makes use of community resources.
- aligns vertically and horizontally with clear learning targets.
- includes time to explore topics in depth and engage students in scientific inquiry and extended investigations.
- inspires and engages students by integrating interests, prior knowledge, experiences, and natural curiosity of the world around them.

Instructional practices that...

- connect learning targets to core standards.
- include both teacher directed and student centered learning opportunities.
- build on students' natural curiosity to facilitate and support inquiries.
- challenge students to build on their understanding or change their misconceptions through experimentation, critical thinking, analysis, and reflection.
- differentiate to reach all students through a variety of learning styles.
- model the skills of scientific inquiry, answer questions using evidence, and provide multiple opportunities for practice and exploration.
- allow students access to multiple resources and time to study topics in depth.
- foster a community of learners through collaboration, discourse, and debate.
- incorporate safe experimentation.

Assessment practices that...

- include both formative and summative assessments.
- focus on content proficiencies using a common scoring guide.
- provide meaningful feedback to students, parents, and teachers.
- utilize data to shape instruction.
- employ differentiated methods.
- teach students to monitor learning through self-reflection.