

SCIENCE STUDENTS

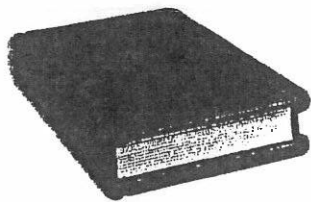
HANDBOOK TO SUCCESS





A Successful Science Student...

1. Uses the first class meeting to find out what the teacher is like and what is expected of the students.
 2. Reads the class handbook so he knows the expectations about grades, rules, homework, tests, etc.
 3. Is on time to class—even a little early to get ready for class
 4. Doesn't miss class unless he is sick
 5. When he does miss, he calls a classmate to find out what he missed and if anything is due upon return to class.
 6. Has textbook and other classroom materials and supplies
 7. Takes complete, accurate and neat class notes. Marks or highlights any information the teacher stresses.
 8. Is attentive, participates and asks questions!
 9. Does homework the same day as the lesson —or at least has homework done before the next class.
 10. Gets help the minute he starts to feel overwhelmed with the material.
 11. Spends twenty to thirty minutes everyday studying your notes and reading the text to reinforce and enhance the classroom material. **REALLY!!**
 12. Study for tests.
 13. Has the proper frame of mind! School is your job. How much effort are you putting forth? Are you doing your best work?
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Classroom Rules

Since lifelong success depends in part on learning to make responsible choices, the following discipline plan has been developed to help every student make good decisions about his/her behavior. Generally, they all point to the same goal that there should be nothing going on in this class that interrupts the teaching or learning process.

1. Be on time to class and in your seat ready to work when the bell rings. Class begins with the bell. If tardy, you must bring a pass with you.
2. Bring all required materials to class each day. Be Prepared. No gum, candy, food, or drink permitted in the classroom. No book bags are permitted in the classroom.
3. Maintain an environment conducive to learning. Students are encouraged to participate in class by asking questions, sharing personal experiences, making appropriate comments, etc., but students are not permitted to talk during class. Talking is allowed only at appropriate times with teacher permission and discretion. Please raise your hand if you have a question or would like to add to the class in a positive way. Follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Be respectful of fellow students and school property. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself. No swearing, teasing or yelling. Students are not to be loud at any time during class. Don't interrupt when someone else is speaking. No sitting, lying or writing on the lab tables.
5. Students are to remain in their seats during class unless given permission to move about as needed while engaged in various class activities. Students are to remain in their seats until the end of the period. Students are not to wonder towards toward the door.
6. Do not leave the room without permission. Hall passes are limited and issued only in emergencies.
7. Lab Safety. Students are to handle all equipment and chemicals carefully and according to safety rules. Students are to wear the proper safety equipment. Clean and return all lab equipment to the appropriate place.

Possible Consequences

Warning

Conference with Student

Lunch Detention

After School Detention

Work Detention

Student Excused From Room

Denied Participation

Parent Contact: Phone Call

Student Given Choirs/Duties

Loss of Participation Points

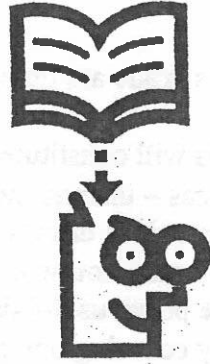
Parent/Teacher/Student Conference

Extra Assignment

Student Completes Corrective Behavior Plan

Office Referral

Etc.



What Do I Need To Bring To Class?

(EVERYDAY!!)

1. Textbook, covered (please don't cover your text with sticky book covers – they leave a residue on the books). Bring your book even on test days.
2. Pencil
3. Spiral Notebook
4. Folder or 3-ring binder
5. Homework
6. Markers
7. A positive attitude and a desire to learn!

Grading Policy

Contributing to the student's grade are the following:

- Homework – this will constitute a large portion of the grade
- Homework quizzes – unannounced and given over the reading material, handout, or the previous days' class lesson
- Quizzes – may or may not be announced and composed of questions covering material over the previous 3-4 days.
- Tests – generally covering one chapter
- Projects, Special Assignments, Portfolio, Participation, etc.

Students receive points for each of the above items. Each grade is written in fraction form indicating the number of points received over the total number of points possible. The student's quarter grade is computed by adding the total points received during the quarter and dividing by the total points possible. This gives a decimal which is then converted to a percent. The letter grade is assigned according to the following scale:

92 – 100%	A	4.00
90 – 91%	A-	3.75
88 – 89%	B+	3.50
82 – 87%	B	3.00
80 – 81%	B-	2.75
78 – 79%	C+	2.50
72 – 77%	C	2.00
70 – 71%	C-	1.75
68 – 69%	D+	1.50
62 – 67%	D	1.00
60 – 61%	D-	0.75
0 - 59%	F	0.00

Each student will maintain a grade tracking sheet allowing the student and parents to track progress.

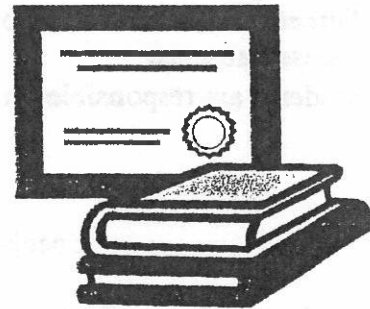
Course Credit is issued by semester.

Exams are imbedded within the course and do not have specific dates or percentages.

A student's percentage points are added and divided by 2 in order to get the average for a semester. For example, if a student received 88 percent the first fall grading period, and a 20 percent the second fall grading period, $(88+20=108/2=54)$, the student would receive no credit for the course. Conversely, if a student received 77 percent the first spring period and a 55 percent the second spring period, $(77+55=132/2=66)$, the student would receive credit. In this example, the student received no credit the first semester, but received credit for the second semester. For High School courses, this means that only $\frac{1}{2}$ credit has been earned: the student would need to repeat the first semester.

Grade Point Average:

A student's grade point average (GPA) is calculated by converting the percentages above into a 4.0 quality point system and by dividing by the number courses/quarters a student has taken. In the example above, an 88=B+=3.5 quality points, 20=F=0.0 quality points; 77=C=2.0 quality points and a 55=F=0.0 quality points. This student's GPA would be: $3.5 + 0.0 + 2.0 + 0.0 = 5.5/4 = 1.375$ GPA.



Homework

Class work including homework will play an important role in the student's success in science. It is a valuable tool that helps students make the most of their classroom experience in any class. Doing homework is one of the most important things a student can do to help her/himself, and it has been shown that students who do not do homework do not have a high success rate. Homework will reinforce skills and material learned in class as well as to prepare students for upcoming class topics.

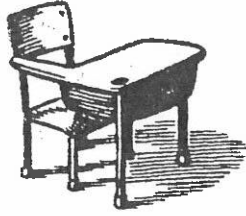
Homework will be assigned several times a week. A student can quickly get behind in the course if homework is not done daily. Remember: a student who chooses not to do homework seriously jeopardizes his understanding of the material, his success in the course, and his/her grades. Please make homework a top priority.

Requirements for Homework

- Follow directions given by teacher
- Have the proper heading:
 - Name
 - Course
 - Assignment Info (page, etc.)
 - Date
- Complete entire homework assignment. Show all work.
- Done in pencil and done legibly. If work cannot be read of if the assignment is poorly done, points will be deducted or the student will be asked to redo the assignment before credit is given
- Turned in on time—late work will not be accepted except in the case of an excused absence
- Students are responsible for obtaining all work missed due to an excused absence

Special Notes About Homework

- Students going on field trips are to turn in homework before leaving on the field trip, obtain work that will be assigned, and be prepared for class upon return, which may include taking a test or quiz. Be sure to see Mr. Oldaker when you have a field trip before going on the trip.
- Students going on vacation, college visitations, and other planned absences should make themselves aware of the school policy regarding missed work and time allowed for make-up. Generally, it is required to obtain all assignments prior to absence.
- All homework assignments are posted on the bulletin board at the front of the room so they are readily available at all times for any student who needs to check on any assignments made throughout the year.



The Science Student's Responsibility

- Come to class each day ready to work and learn
- Bring the required materials to class – including textbook (everyday – even test days), spiral notebook, folder, pencil, markers, homework, etc.
- Be curious and inquisitive – look for relationships and/or patterns that provide insight and understanding
- Be diligent in the completion of homework; do every assignment
- Be persistent and determined in your work
- Ask questions when you don't understand something
- Contribute to class by sharing personal experiences
- Be willing to share your understanding of science with others, as well as being open to the ideas of others.
- Accept the responsibility of working with classmates in the learning of science skills and concepts
- Behave properly, listen to and follow directions, and avoid disturbing others
- Take pride in your work and never let yourself fall into the trap of believing you can't do science. Virtually everybody can, if he or she is willing to work hard enough

The Science Teacher's Responsibilities

Just as students have responsibilities that will help ensure success in their classes, teachers have responsibilities as well. To that end, I plan to:

- Prepare and present lessons that will enable my students to learn biological principles and concepts in their curriculum
- Present clear directions, explanations, and deadlines for assignments
- Create and maintain a comfortable and orderly classroom environment that promotes and supports learning
- Make certain that students understand classroom rules and procedures
- Implement a fair system of grading, making sure students understand how their grade is determined
- Encourage student questions, offer clear, understandable answers
- Expect high standards of work, the best the student has to offer
- Help students see the importance and use of biology in their daily lives
- Be willing to listen to the concerns of students
- Appreciate the efforts of students and enjoy seeing their growth in the learning of biology

Expectations of Good Citizenship

- Attitude:**
- respect property of self, others, school
 - no touching items off limits
 - be polite
 - hands and feet to self
 - give others space
 - no insults or putdowns
 - ask permission before borrowing
 - share
 - no cruel teasing
 - no writing on skin or clothing
- Be Prepared:**
- be on time for school and class or have pass
 - have required supplies and materials in the right place
 - be where you are supposed to be
 - don't make others wait
 - keep area neat
- Best Work:**
- participate in assigned activity
 - complete assignments as directed
 - stay on task
 - do your best
 - think about it
 - read directions for assignment
 - ask questions when necessary
- Cooperate:**
- be kind to others
 - do what is asked without arguing
 - accept feedback on behavior
 - follow directions for assigned work
- Communicate:**
- wait your turn to speak
 - discuss problems appropriately
 - communicate without:
 - profanity
 - excuses
 - complaining
 - yelling
 - whining
 - lying
 - blaming others
 - talking to people on restrictions

Tips for Studying for Science Tests

There are two main goals when studying for a science test:

1. Learn the material so you can do well on the test
2. Learn the material well enough so you still know it next semester! You will probably be taking more science classes and they always depend on the material you learned in the previous class.

Tips:

1. Start studying before the night before the test! Remember to spend 20-30 minutes every night on biology. REALLY!
2. Have all memorizing done a couple days before the test
3. Use flash cards to help you learn definitions, rules, concepts, structures, etc.
4. Look over homework & handouts
5. Look over class notes & textbook
6. Get a study buddy, test each other
7. Restudy – go over what you had trouble with – the things you did not absorb well
8. Remember – don't cram!
9. If you need to get some extra help from the teacher or tutor, do not make an appointment for test day or even the night before. Waiting until the night before is cramming – not the most effective way to learn the material! Plan ahead!

What If I Just Don't Get It?

If the student's grades or comments indicate that he/she is having difficulty, there are some questions to be asked:

- Is the student paying attention in class?
- Is the student taking adequate notes?
- Is the student doing all the assignments?
- Is the student reviewing class notes, handouts, vocabulary, reading the textbook, etc. for at least 20-30 minutes a day regardless if there was a specific assignment for the evening?
- Is the student preparing adequately for test and quizzes?
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One Final Note

It may be necessary to find some extra help for the student. Seeking extra help should be regarded as a positive experience. Almost all students need help at one time or another, so the student should not feel that only "slow" students go for help. Choosing to seek help is a strong signal to the teacher that student is interested in learning and cares enough to give up some free time to get that help. If you need help just let me know and arrangements can be made.

Looking forward to a great year!

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My child and I have read and understand the goals, expectations, grading policy, and classroom policies for science students in Mr. Oldaker's classes.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Please indicate below anything I should know about your son/daughter.

10/10/10



1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee.

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