Agriscience Academy GRADE 8

Introduction to Agriscience II
SYLLABUS
2021-22

Ms. Berry - Room E9, email berrym@region-12.org

Course Description

Students will be provided with an inquiry-based exploration of the agriscience industry with special focus on the importance of sustainable agriculture. Emphasis will be placed on Plant Systems, Animal Systems, Food Science, and Power, Structural & Technical Systems. National FFA Organization (FFA) activities, including Career Development Events (CDE's), will be included throughout the course.

Course Goals

Students will experience the diversity and opportunities that exist within a career of agriculture. They will engage first-hand in didactic and hands-on exercises that expand their appreciation for the responsibilities of these fields. They will explore the opportunities within our Agriscience Academy program of studies. Inquiry-based learning, STEM and Shepaug Learner Outcomes will be essential to class experience. Student engagement, learning, success and safety are the priority goals of this classroom.

Shepaug Learner Outcomes

1. Engaging in the Creative Process
2. Solving Problems
3. Defending Conclusions and Judgements
4. Answering a Call to Citizenship

Course Topic Outline

UNIT 1: Agriscience

UNIT 2: Introduction to Plant Science II

UNIT 3 Introduction to Power, Structure and Technical Systems II

UNIT 4: Introduction to Food Science II

UNIT 5: Introduction to Animal Science II

UNIT 6: Agricultural Advocacy

***Content and sequence may be modified based on student needs and available resources.*

Methods of Instruction

This course will utilize a flexible combination of in-person didactic, online and hands-on instruction. Learning exercises will be collaborative and individual. The care and handling of live animals will be introduced. The course assignments and lesson outlines will be posted on Google Classroom. Additional tools and resources will include (but are not limited to): Kahoot!, Flipgrid, Newsela, YouTube, Kami and Region 12 approved websites.

Assessment/Grading Policy

Formative assessments carry a weight of 30% toward the marking period grade. Examples:

- Homework
- Classroom assignments
- Attendance and attitude
- Entrance or exit slips

Interim assessments carry a weight of 30% toward the marking period grade. Examples:

- Research checks
- First drafts
- Quizzes
- Engineering notebook checks
- Short presentations

Summative assessments carry a weight of 40% toward the marking period grade. Examples:

- Performance tasks
- Final Projects
- Presentations

Classroom Expectations:

1. Active Participation, Community respect, and Inquiry are expected at all times both in and outside the classroom, including online.
2. Students must come to class prepared each day with materials, writing utensils, agenda, and a charged Chromebook.
3. Students should arrive to class on time. Late arrival will result in progressive discipline beginning with warnings, lunch detentions, then after school detentions. If attending class virtually, students are expected to log in 5 minutes prior to class.
4. Students should not use cell phones or smartwatches in class unless directed to do so by the teacher. Phones are put away during class time unless used with a teacher directive.
5. Students are required to maintain a clean working space. It is the student's responsibility to clean up their materials each day and put them away in their proper stored locations.
6. Proper use and care of materials must be followed. Intentional destruction of materials, equipment or furniture will result in students being responsible for the cost of replacement.
7. Clear instructions will be given for the use of hazardous/dangerous materials and equipment. In cases of misuse of these materials, students will no longer be permitted to use the material. An alternative assignment may be given by the teacher.
8. The humane and safe care and handling of live animals is a privilege, not a right. The highest standard of animal care is a priority of this classroom.

Homework Policy

Submission of Late Work: Students must make every effort to submit work on time. Late work impacts the entire class since teachers often cannot discuss answers/ideas until all work is submitted. In addition, students who submit late work have additional time and opportunity that has not been afforded to other students.

As a general rule, late work will be penalized 5% for each day late, up to five school days. The acceptance of late homework is at the teacher's discretion. Since teachers often review the homework answers in class, it is not possible to accept homework after answers are given. Teachers will share their homework policy with each class.

Please note: Late arrival or early dismissal is not an acceptable excuse for late submission of a pre-assigned project./assignment. If a student is in the building or online on a specific day, he/she has an obligation to submit a pre-assigned project/assignment to the appropriate teacher(s). In addition, if a student reports to the nurse instead of a class, he/she has an obligation to submit any pre-assigned project/assignment to the appropriate teacher. If a student arrives late to school, leaves early, or reports to the nurse instead of a class, he/she must submit pre-assigned projects/assignments to the appropriate teacher(s) or the late work policy will apply.

Academic Honesty

Please refer to the student handbook online at http://www.region-12.org for school policy. A note on projects and homework: do the work yourself. In addition to the important matter of academic integrity, there is no benefit from copying work. The homework prepares you for the assessments, and you need to think through the questions on the homework for yourself in order to be prepared for the assessments. Collaborative vs. individual assignments will be clearly indicated.

Student Handbook

Please refer to the student handbook online at http://www.region-12.org for school policy. Students are expected to abide by the handbook rules expectations at all times.

Extra help: We will be more than happy to help students with any difficulties they may be having with the material we will be studying. All they need to do is ask! Please make arrangements to see us during Advisory or before or after school, and use your school email account for all communications.

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