

TULOSO-MIDWAY HIGH SCHOOL
INTRODUCTION TO DENTAL SCIENCES SYLLABUS
2026–2027

Teacher: Sarah De Luna, RDA, RDH
Email: sdeluna@tmisd.us
School Phone: (361) 903-6700 Ext. 3133
Conference Time: 3:30 p.m.–4:20 p.m.
Course: Introduction to Dental Sciences

Course Objective

Introduction to Dental Sciences provides students with foundational knowledge of the dental profession and prepares students for advanced health science coursework. Students will explore careers in dentistry while developing an understanding of dental terminology, ethics, infection control, oral health, patient care, professionalism, and dental office procedures.

Materials and Supplies

- Scrubs (may be required for selected laboratory activities)
- Closed-toe, comfortable shoes
- Safety glasses
- Composition notebook
- Spiral notebook
- Pens and pencils

Google Classroom:

The code for the Google Classroom for Introduction to Dental Sciences is: **nesq2kay**

Cell Phone Usage:

Due to recent legislation, there will be NO cell phone usage. All cell phones shall remain in the student's backpack throughout the class period.

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: Warning and teacher keeps device until the end of the period
- Third offense: Teacher keeps cell phone until the end of the day and parent will be contacted
- Fourth offense: Device will be turned in to the office and parent must pick up the phone. Student will receive ISS
- Fifth offense and beyond: Device will be turned in to the office and parent must pick up the phone. Student will receive 2 days of ISS

Computer/Personal Device Usage

Students are expected to use computers and personal devices for instructional purposes only and to actively participate in assigned activities as directed by the teacher. Accessing websites, applications, or other electronic resources unrelated to the assignment or lesson is prohibited during class time.

Students who are found using their devices inappropriately will receive an initial warning. Repeated misuse of computers or personal devices may result in disciplinary action, including placement on a step sheet in accordance with classroom and campus expectations.

Course Outline by Six Weeks

First Six Weeks

Introduction to Dentistry and Career Exploration

- History of dentistry and significant contributions to the profession
- Dental specialties and career pathways
- The dental healthcare team
- Professionalism, employability skills, and communication
- Ethics in dentistry
- Chapter 1 (History of Dentistry), Chapter 3 (The Dental Healthcare Team), and Chapter 4 (Dental Ethics)

Second Six Weeks

Legal and Safety Foundations

- Dentistry and the law
- HIPAA and patient confidentiality
- OSHA regulations and workplace safety
- Infection control and standard precautions
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Chapter 5 (Dentistry and the Law) and Chapter 19 (Infection Control)

Third Six Weeks

Oral Anatomy and Dental Disease

- Basic oral anatomy and tooth identification
- Dental terminology and charting
- Dental caries and the caries process
- Common oral conditions and diseases
- Chapter 11 (Oral Embryology and Histology), Chapter 12 (Tooth Morphology), and Chapter 13 (Dental Caries)

Fourth Six Weeks

Preventive Dentistry and Nutrition

- Preventive dentistry procedures
- Oral hygiene instruction and patient education
- Nutrition and its effects on oral health

- Fluoride and sealants
- Community dental health
- Chapter 15 (Preventive Dentistry) and Chapter 16 (Nutrition and Dietary Counseling)

Fifth Six Weeks

Dental Equipment and Clinical Skills

- Introduction to dental instruments and equipment
- Instrument identification and tray setups
- Dental materials and laboratory procedures
- Introduction to chairside assisting techniques
- Chapter 33 (Basic Chairside Assisting), Chapter 34 (Dental Instruments), and selected dental materials chapters

Sixth Six Weeks

Dental Specialties and Medical Emergencies

- Dental specialties and expanded career opportunities
- Medical emergencies in the dental office
- Professional leadership and career readiness
- Review of course competencies and capstone activities
- Chapter 31 (Assisting in a Medical Emergency) and selected dental specialty chapters

****Course outline subject to change****

Assignments and Grading

A minimum of nine (9) minor assignments and two (2) major assignments shall be taken for each six-week grading period.

Assignment Type	Examples
Minor Assignments	Daily work, quizzes, bell ringers, laboratory activities, notebooks
Major Assignments	Exams, projects, presentations, practical assessments

Late Work Policy

Late work is classified as work not turned in on time, but not due to an excused or unexcused absence.

Days Late	Penalty
1	-10 points
2	-20 points
3	-30 points
4+	Not accepted

Make-Up Work Expectations

- Students shall be expected to make up assignments and tests after absences.
- Teachers shall inform students that they have five (5) days to complete make-up work after an excused absence.
- If a student is absent during the five (5) days that are allotted, it does not extend the original timeframe.
- Students shall receive a zero (0) for any assignment or test not made up within the time allotted.
- Students shall also be permitted to take a test administered in any class missed due to an excused absence.

Retake and Retest Expectations

- Students shall be allowed one (1) new attempt to exhibit relative mastery on a class assignment or examination for which the student received a failing grade.
- The grade earned shall be entered as a new assignment into the respective category. The grade on the new attempt shall be entered regardless of the new score.
- A teacher may establish a requirement that students receive reasonable tutorial assistance prior to an opportunity for retake/retest. Reasonable tutorial assistance may be accomplished through small groups, tutorials, peer teaming, etc.
- The window to complete an opportunity for an improved grade extends five (5) school days after the failing grade was first viewable in the electronic gradebook. Teachers may extend this window at their discretion.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete all assignments, assessments, projects, and laboratory activities honestly and independently unless collaboration has been specifically authorized by the instructor. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of technology or artificial intelligence, copying another student's work, sharing answers, or allowing another student to complete work on one's behalf.

Any instance of academic dishonesty may result in disciplinary action in accordance with campus and district policies, including loss of credit on the assignment or assessment. Parents or guardians may be contacted regarding repeated or serious violations.

The purpose of this policy is to promote personal responsibility, ethical behavior, and the development of professional standards expected in healthcare careers.

Classroom Expectations

- Arrive **on time** and **prepared** for class.
- Follow all laboratory and safety procedures.
- Respect classmates, instructors, and equipment.
- Demonstrate professionalism and integrity.
- Actively participate in classroom and laboratory activities.
- Represent the Dental Sciences program positively.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

We have read and understand the expectations, policies, and requirements outlined in the Introduction to Dental Sciences syllabus. (Please sign and return this page only)

Student Name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Student email: _____

Class Period: _____

Parent Name (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____