COURSE PROFILE

COURSE TITLE: College Prep Biology

TEACHER: Mr. Dickison

DEPARTMENT: Science

OBJECTIVE: To be able to apply the science process standards and to increase the science knowledge base through applicable content standards.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:
This class is a project based learning class.

Project Based Learning is an instructional approach built upon authentic learning activities that engage student interest and motivation. These activities are designed to answer a question or solve a problem and generally reflect the types of learning and work people do in the everyday world outside the classroom.

Project Based Learning is synonymous with learning in depth. A well-designed project provokes students to encounter (and struggle with) the central concepts and principles of a discipline.

Project Based Learning teaches students 21st century skills as well as content. These skills include communication and presentation skills, organization and time management skills, research and inquiry skills, self-assessment and reflection skills, and group participation and leadership skills.

Project Based Learning is generally done by groups of students working together toward a common goal. Performance is assessed on an individual basis, and takes into account the quality of the product produced, the depth of content understanding demonstrated, and the contributions made to the ongoing process of project realization.

Finally, Project Based Learning allows students to reflect upon their own ideas and opinions, exercise voice and choice, and make decisions that affect project outcomes and the learning process in general.

Combining these considerations, we define Project Based Learning as: a systematic teaching method that engages students in learning essential knowledge and life-enhancing skills through an extended, student-influenced inquiry process structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed products and tasks.
Notebooks
All students will be expected to maintain a composition book that will be maintained with writing assignments, important class concepts and notes from our field trips to the Gooseneck Salt Marsh. These notes may contain data and observations etc.

Labs
Labs will include but are not limited to our environmental study trips to the salt marsh where students will collect real data which will be graphed etc. Additional labs will be performed in class to reinforce concepts of current content, lab reports will generally follow.

BOOKS, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES: Materials and supplies as specified by teacher; Text: Modern Biology, Holt

GRADING POLICY: Grades will reflect the following approximate percents:
Projects - 50 percent (reports, projects, tests)
Class Participation & Homework - 25 percent (notebooks, classwork, quizzes)
Labs - 25 percent (lab work, lab reports)
Final exam - 10 percent of final grade

HOMEWORK: Homework will be expected in order to make due dates for projects. Specific homework will not generally be assigned, the students will need to do research and collaboration outside of school in order to meet due dates.

MAKE-UP WORK: Students are expected to make up all missed work within a reasonable period of time. Immediately upon return from an absence the student should contact the teacher concerning missed assignments. The student is also responsible for obtaining notes missed during an absence. It may be necessary for the student to remain after school to make up all work in a timely fashion.

CLASSROOM RULES: All applicable RHS rules and teacher specified rules will apply.

TIME AVAILABLE FOR CONFERENCES, TUTORING, EXTRA HELP: During planning period, before or after school by appointment.

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