

COURSE TITLE:	Scientific Research		
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Forsyth County Schools
Course Syllabus 2020/2021

Course Description:

The Lab Researchers Assisting Teachers of Science (Lab RATS) program gives high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn science credit while completing independent science research.

Each participant will work with a mentor science teacher during his/her planning period. Throughout the school year, participants will design and conduct their own science fair research. Participation in the regional science fair is required as part of the course. Students are accepted into the course through an application process.

In addition, participants will learn valuable laboratory skills that will make them stand out in their college science classes. These lab skills will include microscope skills, solution preparation, equipment maintenance and set up, spectrometry, titrations, use of probe equipment, and many others.

Standards: Course Standards can be found at www.georgiastandards.org.

Required Assignments:

Participants in the program are required to participate in the regional science fair, DNA Day Essay Contest, and at least two other science-related activities. Options include Science Olympiad, Science Bowl, Google Science Fair, Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, Regeneron Science Talent Search, and many others. Students also may complete practical exams to demonstrate laboratory skills competency, and students will develop projects demonstrating appropriate lab techniques and safety procedures.

Formative grades will be based on successful completion of checkpoints throughout the research process. Summative grades will include the research paper, participation in the science fair and other science competitions, and production of the science lab safety video.

Availability for Extra Help: *Extra help is available mornings and afternoons by appointment. Help sessions also may be scheduled virtually through Microsoft Teams.*

Makeup Work: *Make up work is defined as work assigned during a student's absence, not work assigned prior to an absence. The student has five (5) school days upon returning to school to complete make-up work. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period to make up work, if there are extenuating circumstances.*

Grading Calculations:

Non-EOC Course Average = 50% (1st Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2nd Sem. Course Work)
1st and 2nd Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Grading Policy:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

Formative Assessments include, but are not limited to homework, class work, practice tests, rough drafts, and sections of projects/ research papers/presentations.

Summative Assessments include, but are not limited to unit tests, final projects, final essays, final research papers, and final presentations.

Learning Resources/Textbook(s): All learning resources, both print and digital, are meant to support and enhance the student learning experience of this class. Below are the names of the textbooks and websites that will be used in this course. Some of the web-based resources require parent permission per federal regulations. Federal laws that guide parent permission requirements are as follows:

- **Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA):** The school is required by CIPA to have technology measures and policies in place that protect students from harmful materials including those that are obscene and pornographic. Any harmful content contained within inappropriate sites will be blocked. <http://fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html>
- **Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA):** COPPA applies to commercial companies and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under 13years of age. No personal student information is collected for commercial purposes. <https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/complying-coppa-frequently-asked-questions-0>
- **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** FERPA protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents the right to review records. Under FERPA, schools may disclose directory information in certain circumstances. <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa>

Please review the resource list. Each website related to the curriculum resources is provided along with their privacy policies. Should you have any questions regarding these resources immediately contact the course teacher via email or phone.

*** The following resources are county approved. These resources may vary by school due to sequencing, pacing, curriculum design, and/or individual needs of students.**

Parent Initial for Approval **	Name of Resource	Website	Privacy Policy
	AP Classroom/Digital Portfolio	College Board MyAP	Privacy Policy
	Ebsco	Ebsco (through AP Digital Portfolio)	Privacy Policy
	JSTOR	JSTOR (through Classlink)	Privacy Policy
	GALILEO	GALILEO (through Classlink)	Privacy Policy
	Turnitin	Turnitin (through AP Digital Portfolio)	Privacy Policy
	TED Ed	TED Ed Science and Technology lessons	Privacy Policy
	Kahoot	Kahoot website	Privacy Policy

Initials _____ (every page initialed by parent)

Updated June 2020 dp

	Nearpod	Classlink Access	Privacy Policy
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**** The following resources are web-based resources that require parent permission. By signing the syllabus, the parent is approving these resources. Should you have any questions regarding any of these classroom resources, please contact your student's teacher via email.**

I, _____, have read this course syllabus and approve of its contents. I agree to allow my student to use each of the classroom resources listed in the learning resource section. I will support my student following the classroom expectations outlined in this course syllabus. I agree that I am the person who is legally allowed to consent for my student whose name is listed below.

Student's Name (Print)

Parent's Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Date