**Syllabus 9th Grade Science**

**Godinez Fundamental High School**

**2020-2021**

**Ms. Ann Priess-Maclean Room 2-115**

**Course Outcomes: Students will be able to**

1. Understand the importance of observation and asking questions in forwarding scientific knowledge. Be able to make accurate observations and ask their own questions.
2. Act in accordance with striving to live in and create a flourishing civilization.
3. Be able to accurately apply biological terminology (Latin and Greek roots)
4. Be able to make calculations to interpret data. Analyze data from calculations.
5. Know how to read, interpret, report on, and create scientific charts, graphs, tables, and other types of graphical representations of scientific data and case studies.
6. Be able to describe, write about, and answer questions that demonstrate that evolution is the central organizing principle in biology.
7. Feel confident in their ability to engage as an equal partner along with parents, teachers, and school staff for their own education. This includes the courage to ask questions and know how to find scientifically reliable evidence online.
8. Be aware of and know how to recognize cognitive biases including confirmation bias. See: “Can You Solve This?” on Veritasium You Tube Channel.

**Minimum Pre-Requisites for this course:  
Freshman high-school level** reading and writing! The majority of the graded work can and should be completed within the time given in class. If students fail to work on projects or labs during class, the expectation is they must finish work on their own time after class.

Students’ written work will be evaluated both by content **and** by writing skills (writing must be grammatically correct, have appropriate use of terms, and demonstrate logical sentence construction.) Any work that is turned in that exceeds my expectations will receive points over and above the points possible for that assignment. I support the school’s policy on plagiarism and academic honesty. Work used as a reference from another source must be noted or it is considered to be stealing intellectual property.

**My grade book has the following categories and percentages assigned to each as shown:**

Lab Writing, Writing Assignments 20%

Projects and Presentations 20%

Class Work 15%

Assessments Formative and Subjective 20%

Final Exam 25%

Total 100%

Extra Credit: I only offer extra credit in the form of excellence in work. If a student’s work exceeds my expectations; points over the total points possible will be awarded. No extra credit is available for events for which a fee is required.

Students are allowed to use all notes and graded, returned work when taking quizzes, exams, and the final. The only exception is when they are tested on vocabulary terms specific to a unit of study. Test retakes are not permitted.

Absences are sometimes unavoidable. I suggest every student get the phone numbers of at least two other students in this class. Your student can use the phone number of any student in any one of my 5 sections of Biology. Usually classwork is difficult to make up because the direct instruction has been missed. However, all students are responsible for making up missed work. Students may turn in missing work due to absence ONLY DURING OFFICE HOURS BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL. I do not accept or collect absent work of any kind during class.

Late work is not accepted unless the student has a legal agreement with the school that is part of a special education plan. There is no way to “raise” your grade due to missing assignments. Everything counts.

If a student misses more than one class while they have been assigned to a group, the student will be removed from the group and asked to complete the missed project or lab on their own outside of normal class hours.

First semester we will learn about the Scientific Method and Lab Safety, Graphing and Analyzing Scientific Data, Biochemistry, Membrane Structure and Transport, Cells and Specialization in Structure and Function, and Ecology.

Second semester we will study evolution, interaction between humans and the natural world including genetics.

On lab safety: If a student’s behavior, conduct, or lack of focus is ***the cause or the potential cause of injury or harm*** to himself/herself or others, I will dismiss the student from the lab. There is no recourse to make up a grade in this case. There is no tolerance for situations where one student threatens another’s safety.