

Course Syllabus
for
Next Generation Science

Renaissance High School
6565 West Outer Drive
Detroit, MI 48235
(313) 416-4600
Ms. Anita Williams, Principal

<u>Instructors</u>	<u>Hours:</u>	<u>Prep Period</u>	<u>Room</u>
Mr. A. Alster	G	B, E	308
Ms. C. Anderson	F, G	D, E	305
Dr. F. Curtis-Fields	A	B, C	312
Mrs. E. Lott	B, C, D, E	A, F	305/312
Mr. K. Jenks	B, C	D, G	315

Course Description

This is a yearlong course divided into semesters. First semester will cover Physical Science and second semester will cover Earth Science. The course is designed to serve as a solid foundation for our students taking later courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, etc. Through inquiry methods the students will learn how to graph and analyze data. These methods will additionally prepare the students for the ACT and other standardized tests. These standards are aligned with Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards.

Course Goals

Throughout this course students will develop their skills in scientific critical thinking, graphing and analyzing data, laboratory procedures, and communicating results.

Materials

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| 1. Flexible 3 ring binder (2 inch) | 7. 12 inch ruler (w/metric markings) |
| 2. Loose leaf paper | 8. 2 red pens |
| 3. Reinforcements | 9. Graph paper |
| 4. Five (5) dividers with pockets and tabs | 10. PLANNER |
| 5. Pens and pencils (2 black ink pens) | 11. \$5.00 lab fee |
| 6. Scientific Calculator (Not a phone) | 12. Access to the Internet (New Path Learning, Remind101, and Class Website) |

SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS ARE NOT ALLOWED

Overview of Topics**First Semester**

Science and Measurements
 Mathematical Models
 Mass and Volume
 Characteristics Properties
 Separation of Substances
 Sludge Test

Second Semester

Earth Space and Time
 Solid Earth
 Earth Systems
 Fluid Earth

Attendance Policy and Make-up Work

Students are expected to be present daily and on time. In the event of absence, it is the student's responsibility to bring an absence excuse from a parent or guardian within three (3) school days of the student's return to class. Students who have not brought notes within three days will not be given make-up work. Students should check the calendar on the website for work that was missed.

There will be no make-up work given for truancy or unexcused absences. Students must make appointments for missed announced quizzes and/or tests on the day of their return. Pop quizzes cannot be made up.

Due to the nature of laboratory experiments, missed labs CANNOT be made up; however, your lab partner should explain the lab to you and share the data they gathered with you.

Tardy Policy and Bellwork

There is nothing more rude or distracting than somebody that is late to class. You NEED to be in class on time and beginning the bell work as soon as possible. Late students are allowed into the classroom with a valid pass. Students that are late are to knock on the door and wait to be allowed in the room. They will not receive points for the bellwork due to their tardiness. Excessive tardiness will result in a phone call home, parent conferences, or suspension.

Bellwork is to be completed within the first 4 minutes of class. The bellwork will be posted on the easel board every day. As soon as you enter the classroom you should begin the bellwork so you have enough time to think and answer the question. When I walk in I will start a timer that will have about 3 minutes on it. During these 3 minutes, answer the question to the best of your ability. Once those 3 minutes are up, I will put another timer up that will have 1 minute. During that minute you are to finish the bellwork as I come around to give you a "stamp". You will receive a stamp for attempting the question and working quietly and independently on the bellwork. Students that have not started their bellwork, not attempted the bellwork, or are disruptive will not receive a stamp. Bellwork will be collected about every 3 weeks.

Grading Scale

A 100% - 85%
 B 84% - 75%
 C 74% - 65%
 D 64% - 50%

Due to the leniency of the grading scale, there will be no rounding in the computation of the course grade. (example 49.99999% = F)

Distribution on Credit: Credit can be earned in the following areas.

Tests	35%
Labs	30%
Quizzes	20%
Homework/Classwork	15%

Lab Report Format

I Pre-Laboratory Report (Complete this section before starting the experiment)

- A. Title: (The name of the experiment)
- B. Purpose: (The reason for doing the experiment)
- C. Hypothesis: (Make a testable **Claim** about the problem)
- D. Materials: (A list of the equipment needed to complete the experiment)
- E. Procedure: (The step by step instructions needed to complete the experiment)
- F. Data: (Tables that need to be completed during the experiment)

II Laboratory Report

- A. Observations: **Evidence** (Any information/data that is collected during the experiment that supports the claim)
 1. Quantitative Data –Information that is represented in the form of tables, graphs, charts, equations and calculations.
 2. Qualitative Data- Information that is represented in the form of a description of the results using the 5 senses (colors, textures, sounds and odors)
- B. Research questions with answers.
- C. Conclusions (Use **Reasoning** that links the evidence to the claim)

A report that is written out of order is subject to a 20 point penalty

Pre-Lab 40Points

Before each lab the student is expected to have the pre-lab done. This is a homework assignment. The pre-lab consists of the title, purpose(s), materials, procedure(s), blank data table, place for observations, place for calculations, research question(s) with space for answers, and space for conclusions. These are done **IN ADVANCE** of the lab, as class time is designed for data collection and observation only!!! A student that does not have the pre-lab done on the date that it is due will not be allowed to recover the 40 lost points.

Data analysis and the completion of data tables, questions, conclusions and the overall completion of the lab report are done at home and is due at the BEGINNING of the next class meeting unless otherwise stated by me.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit for this class. Each student receives equal opportunity for success. All assignments are due as stated. Individualized requests regarding make up work for poor planning on the part of the student will not be honored. Students participating in extracurricular activities that make class absences necessary will have work due the next school day after the event. No other allowances will be made.

Letters of Recommendation for Dr. Curtis-Fields ONLY!

Only students that receive an A or B in the course may secure letters of recommendation. We will honor letters of recommendation request early if it becomes statistically impossible for a student's final grade to fall below a B for the course.

Students must make request at least one week before they are due and should include a listing of their extra-curricular activities in order to secure a better letter of recommendation. Although it is highly unlikely to occur if a student has met the academic standard, we may decline the offer to write a letter of recommendation at our own discretion.

Classroom Rules

1. Treat other politely and be kind towards one another.
2. Use personal and school equipment responsibly and respectfully.
3. Be prepared for class every day.
4. Follow directions the first time they are given and stay on task during all work times.
5. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Students are required to follow the Detroit Public Schools Student Code of Conduct, classroom rules, and the Renaissance High School Dress Code. Students will not be allowed to enter/stay in class if they do not adhere to the content of these documents. Students are required to wear ID card above waist at all times.

All papers must have name, date, and hour on them. ANY STUDENT THAT TURNS IN A PAPER WITHOUT THEIR NAME ON IT WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THEIR WORK!!! WRITE YOUR NAME FIRST!!!

Discipline Plan

If a student cannot follow the regulations set forth in this document, the following corrective actions will be executed:

1. Verbal warning /call home
2. Change student seating/ call home
3. Detention/ call home
4. Meeting with parents without suspension
5. Suspension and meeting with parents (this step repeats)
6. Any student participating in academic dishonesty will receive a zero on their assignment. Requirement for cheating-“If I say you are cheating, you are cheating.”

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are strictly prohibited. Students must turn off devices before entering the classroom. After entry, **ANY** electronic device in use (i.e. talking, listening, looking, holding, ringing, vibrating, or texting) will be confiscated and turned over to administration at the teacher’s earliest convenience. Confiscated items will not be returned directly to a parent or child under any circumstances. They must be retrieved from administration during the scheduled time.

Progress Reports

Progress reports are always available on Parent Connect. The access code can be obtained from the office. The Parent Connect operation is a “read-only” document, meaning that I am the only one allowed to change grades. A hard copy will be distributed to students every 6 weeks that must be signed and returned by a parent or guardian.

Substitute Teachers

In the extremely unlikely event of my absence, a substitute teacher will be provided. Students are expected to be on their best behavior. They are expected to follow the rules and routines as if I were present. Any student who receives a negative report will be disciplined immediately upon my return. The extent of that discipline will be determined by the behavior displayed. All sub work is worth **a quiz grade**. Students **MUST** turn in each assignment to the substitute for credit. Any assignment not given to the substitute at the end of the class hour will neither be accepted nor graded.

Organization of Binder (each section should be labeled)

Cover	Student Name, Hour, Room Number
First Page:	Syllabus
First Section:	Class Notes
Second Section:	Classwork/Homework
Third Section	Laboratory Reports
Fourth Section	Returned Papers

(All pages in the notebook should be dated and in chronological order)

To the Parent:

We are available to you by progress reports, notes, phone calls, e-mails, and visits by appointments (during my preparation periods only please). Email addresses are adam.alster@detroitk12.org, Erica.alford@detroitk12.org, Caitlin.anderson@detroitk12.org, frances.curtis-fields@detroitk12.org, or kyle.jenks@detroitk12.org. If you send an e-mail, please put your child's name in the subject box.

Additionally, if you wish to communicate by phone, we can be reached by leaving a message at (313) 416-4600. Please leave a number where you can be contacted between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In closing, please encourage your child to maintain good study habits and mastery of the material covered in this extremely challenging class. A minimum of 30 minutes a day should be devoted to NGS. We are confident in your child's ability to do well in this course. We look forward to working with you and your child. Please note that whether or not the syllabus is signed and returned, the policies of the syllabus will be followed.

Educationally yours,

Mr. Adam Alster
 Ms. Erica Alford
 Ms. Caitlin Anderson
 Dr. Frances Curtis-Fields
 Mr. Kyle Jenks

Please fill out and return this section only

I have read and discussed this syllabus with my child, _____.

Class Hour _____

 Student Signature

 Parent Signature

 Date

 Parent's Cell

 Parent's work number

 Parent's email address