

# St. Ambrose Back to School Night

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science

Dear Junior High Parents/Guardians,

My name is Dr. Ndifon, and I have been the middle school science teacher here at St. Ambrose Catholic School for about 17 years. I hope you are as excited about the new, albeit different kind of school year as I am. Yes, the times are very challenging, but I am positive that working together, we will be able to successfully pull through.

As usual, our goal is to provide your children with the solid science foundation that Saint Ambrose Catholic School is well known for. I wish to assure you, that I have given a very serious thought to how we will do this considering that we have less instructional time than in a normal school year. I believe we can do this if we prioritize topics to ensure that critical areas of content are well taken care of first.

## Life Science Syllabus

We will prioritize Life Science concepts to ensure that areas of critical importance for high school are covered first:

**Cells and Heredity-** Topics to be covered in this unit will include: Discovering cells; The Cell theory, Cell structure, Cell chemistry, Cell processes – respiration, photosynthesis, mitosis, meiosis, osmosis, diffusion, DNA, RNA - structure and function, Mendelian genetics – monohybrid/dihybrid crosses, Punnett squares, probability, Modern genetics – human inheritance and genetic disorders, cloning, transgenics

**Human Biology and Health** – In this unit we will cover the following topics: The skeletal system, The muscular system, The skin, The digestive system and digestion, The circulatory system, Blood and lymph, Cardiovascular disease, The respiratory system, Smoking and health, The excretory system, Infectious/noninfectious diseases, Body defenses, The nervous system, Structure and function the nervous system, Sense organs – structure and function.

**The following units will also be covered if time permits:**

**Ecology** – In this unit we will talk about: Populations and Communities, Ecosystems and Biomes, Biodiversity, and Environmental Issues.

**Microscopy-** In this unit we use a very hands on approach to study parts of the microscope, types of microscopes, use and care of the microscope, calculations in microscopy, and specimen preparation for microscopy.

## Expectations

All students will be expected to:

- Show respect for the instructor, self, and others
- Pay attention during class and follow directions
- Follow the distance learning code of conduct
- Come prepared for class
- Actively participate in discussions, etc.

## Assessment

- Assessment will be in the form of online tests/quizzes and online homework assignments.

## Homework

- Will be posted **online** on **Rediker** and in the Google Classroom.
- It will be done in the Google Classroom
- It is interactive – students type in their answers and click submit when done
- Is taken from the science workbook that came with the textbook.
- Is taken from the corresponding chapter being covered in the textbook.
- Each set of homework questions contains a reference to page(s) where the answers are to be found in the textbook. Therefore, doing homework is easy and less time intensive.
- In the Google Classroom, all homework assignments for each chapter are combined into one document for ease of access and manipulation.
- In Rediker the assignments are listed separately by Chapter Section
- Each homework assignment is worth 10 points.

## Late/Incomplete assignments

- Assignments not fully completed will only receive partial credit.
- An assignment not turned in on the due date is considered late and will initially be recorded as M (missing) on Rediker
- Late homework will be penalized at a depreciation rate of 10% for every day it is late.
- If a student is absent it is his/her responsibility to make up missed homework within 2 days of resuming class.
- **Note:** There will be NO END OF QUARTER TURNING IN OF ALL MISSING WORK!!

## Make-up work

- Make-up work is accepted for excused absences only.
- It is the student's responsibility to reschedule missed assignments and assessments

## Tests/Quizzes:

- Test but not quiz dates are announced at least 3 days in advance.
- There are absolutely NO test retakes.
- All tests will be online in the Google Classroom and must be done by the due date
- Tests will NOT be reactivated after the due date.

**Textbooks:** All text books must be covered at all times. Students are expected to take good care of books assigned to them and be responsible for them at all times. Students will be charged the cost of replacing damaged or lost books.

## Grading

- **Scheme:** 93 – 100% (A), 85-92% (B), 77 – 84% (C), 70 – 76% (D) and 0 – 69% (F).

**Grade computation:**

**Rediker** uses a points-based system to compute grades by expressing points earned as a percentage of total points possible. In other words, **assignments are not weighted**. Students can view their grades online on “Rediker” at any time.

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating and plagiarism are serious infractions at Saint Ambrose and the consequences are clearly stated in the school handbook.

Thank you for coming and let us look forward to a successful school year.