

Thomas S. Wootton High School – Horticulture Science
First Semester Objectives & Syllabus

Instructor:

Mr. James Forsberg
James_D_Forsberg@mcpsmd.org
Office 217A (301-279-8595)

I. Course Information:

This course provides instruction related to the broad field of horticulture with the emphasis on the scientific and technical knowledge related to the discipline, as well as the ways we use this knowledge to establish a relationship with our environment. Topics in this course include information on plant structure and function, plant growth, plant diversity, basic plant identification, general botany, soil analysis, gardening and land use, and more. Time will be spent in the classroom, outside (as weather permits), and in the greenhouse.

II. Objectives

- A. Demonstrate the ability to use qualitative and quantitative observation techniques unique to the field of horticulture.
- B. Gain an understanding of the similarities and differences among organisms in the plant kingdom.
- C. Apply learned horticulture techniques in an outdoor setting, as well as in a greenhouse.
- D. Complete a number of projects, in and out of a school setting, in order to obtain skill at maintaining a schedule, exploring the horticulture world, and understanding relationships between living organisms.

III. Class Guidelines and Expectations: all students are expected to...

1. *RESPECT* the instructor, fellow students, the plants and other organisms, and equipment used at all times.
2. *SAFELY* participate in the class, laboratory, greenhouse, or outdoor setting in an appropriate manner.
3. *BE IN CLASS:* The school attendance policy will be enforced. A warning letter will be sent after **THREE** unexcused absences and the parents will be notified. If a student accrues **FIVE** unexcused absences, **LOSS of CREDIT (LC)** will occur.
4. *BE ON TIME* to class, ready to begin when the bell rings. Some notes:
 - a. **THREE** times unexcused **LATE** to class equals **ONE** unexcused absence.
 - b. Students arriving **20** minutes or later are marked absent.
5. *BE PREPARED* by bringing required materials and/or wear appropriate clothing in order to complete activities and assignments.
6. *USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE* at all times.
7. Become *ACTIVELY* involved in all class activities. Be ready and willing to get your *HANDS DIRTY!*
8. *REFRAIN* from using **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** such as iPods and Cell Phones.
9. Attend to personal matters outside of class time. Grade checks, missed assignments, conferences, and any other matters should not be a distraction in the classroom setting.

IV. Grading Policy –

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

- 90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D 50-59% = E
- The grade break down is as follows:
 - 50% Projects/Classwork/Fieldwork
 - 50% Tests/Quizzes/Assessments/Hort Lit
- Reassessment on any assignment is at the teacher's discretion
 - Generally, only selected quizzes are reassessed.
- Students who cheat or do not meet deadlines will receive a zero on that assignment.

V. Extra Help: The instructors are available for extra help by appointment, and before and after school. On most days:

- Mr. Forsberg – 4th period in room 222.

VI. Topics & Units:

- **Scientific Method / Designing a study**
- **Plant Taxonomy**
- **Dichotomous Keys**
- **Plant Parts and Functions**
- **Environmental Factors**
- **Seed Collection Project**
- **Plant Specimen Preservation**
- **Leaf Project**
- **Plant Propagation**
- **Soil requirements**

VII. Suggested Materials for Class:

- Three ring notebook, coloring pencils, pen/pencil, and loose-leaf paper.

VIII. Lab Fee: \$10.00

*****This is a course based on INDEPENDENT work. Students MUST be able to monitor their own progress throughout the year and during various assignments. We are all going to have a GREAT time in Hort-Sci this year.

HORTICULTURE SCIENCE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

- ✓ All students are expected to be on time to class. Students who are tardy will assigned detention outside of class time. Three unexcused lates will be referred to an administrator.
- ✓ Students are responsible for all work missed during absences. Credit for work missed due to unexcused absences will be given at your teacher's discretion.
- ✓ All students are expected to be WITH the class at all times, whether it is in the classroom, outside, or in the computer lab.
- ✓ Leaving class without permission or wandering the halls will not be tolerated, and will result in an administrative referral.

Completion of Work

- ❖ Students are expected to complete all classroom assignments and projects by the due date.
- ❖ NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- ❖ The deadline for assignments is the same as the due date, unless otherwise specified.

Classroom Behavior

- In a hands on course such as Horticulture Science there will be many times when proper behavior is not a suggestion, but an absolute must.
- There will be various tools and equipment that must be handled properly at all times.
- Administrative referrals will be the consequence for any offense.

Breakdown of Class Time

- Approximately 1/3 of class time will be spent on lectures and individual classwork.
- Approximately 1/3 of class time will be spent working on various projects.
- Approximately 1/3 of class time will be spent on fieldwork, such as outside landscaping or greenhouse work.

Food in Class

- ✓ In general, eating in class will not be permitted, unless an occasion is otherwise specified.

******I have read and understand the course expectations and will follow these guidelines in order to be a positive member of the Horticulture Science Program.******

Parent Signature_____

Student Signature_____