



Edna Karr Secondary School

A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



School Year 2009-2010

August 10, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

My name is Teresa Burchette and I would like to welcome you and your student to Honors Biology. I am so excited to be part of the Karr family! I am looking forward to getting to know you, your student, and having a successful and productive year. I am a committed educator who believes children, given the right support, can accomplish anything they put their minds to. I teach by example. I have a strong work ethic, am fair, committed, consistent, and have high expectations of myself and my students. I do not believe in lowering the bar, but instead helping my students over it. My duty and passion is to teach each student the joys of being a life-long learner, to be confident in any situation, to take on the world, and never settle for anything less than excellence.

My goal for this year is to help your student prepare for college; by challenging them to test their understanding of concepts through real life applications, by a rigorous standards-based curriculum. They will use higher order thinking skills to solve problems and actively participate in classroom talk about the concepts and standards they are learning. I look forward to working with you and your child and I am excited to watch them grow and mature as young adults and as life-long learners.

I am committed to helping your student be successful and I believe that help does not stop when school is over. You and your student may call me Sunday through Thursday, between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm to get homework help or discuss issues that may arise. My cell number is **504-452-8261**. I am also available before and after school or by appointment. You may contact me at anytime via email – teresa.burchette@theacsa.org.

We will be having an **open house** on **August 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm**. I am looking forward to meeting you and together we can help your student have a successful year!

With zest and enthusiasm,

Teresa L Burchette

Teresa Burchette

Course Description

Biology is a laboratory science course that promotes scientific thinking through problem solving, a process that encourages curiosity and careful inquiry. It is the study of living things and focuses on the study of life by examining the five fundamental concepts of cellular: biology, genetics, ecology, evolution and physiology. The scientific process and laboratory skills are emphasized along with biology's connections to other scientific disciplines. Students learn scientific writing skills and will also examine current biological issues.

Major Topics

1st Semester

1 st quarter	2 nd quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scientific Inquiry• Laboratory Safety• Data Gathering and Analysis• Biochemistry• The Cell – Structure and Function• Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration• Basic Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell Reproduction• Genetics<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mendelian▪ Non-Mendelian▪ Human• Evolution• Experimental Science Project

2nd Semester

3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classification• Taxonomy• Organism Survey• Patterns of Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecology• Energy Flow• Biogeochemical Cycles• Biomes• Classification and Transmission of Diseases• Multi-media Science Research Project

Major Activities and Skills

- **Daily Lessons** are focused on science concept development and enhancement of science inquiry skills.
- **Science Project** – The students choose a topic and design a science investigation based on the topic. This project must follow the scientific method. The students present the project using PowerPoint.
- **Learn Excel and PowerPoint** – The students will create graphs and tables using Excel program and develop PowerPoint slide show on a science career.
- **Dissection** provides the students experiences in studying the internal physiology of vertebrates and invertebrates.
- **DNA Profiling and Blood Typing**
- **Field Trips**
- **Plant Taxonomy**

Textbook

Biology by Prentice Hall (cost of replacement \$58.00)

- * Students will be able to bring their books home and use them for homework and reference. This reduces damage to the book but, care still needs to be taken and books are to be covered. There will be several book checks throughout the year and students will be asked to bring in their book from home. I have a classroom set for them to use while at school.

Materials to bring to class EVERYDAY

- Your 1 inch binder
- Pencils (mechanical), highlighters, pens (blue/black only), post-its
- Extra loose leaf notebook paper for turn in assignments, quizzes, and tests (I will not accept pages ripped from a spiral notebook.)
- Bound lab composition book

Grading

Categories and approximate percentage (of the total grade) are as follows:

Test	15%
Quizzes	10%
All class work including labs	15%
Participation	10%
Homework	10%
Semester Project	15%
Semester exam	25%

Grading Scale

93% - 100%	A
85% – 92%	B
77 – 84%	C
70 – 76	D
69 and below; Failing	

Homework Policy

I want your child to be a successful learner and homework is one part of that recipe for success. I use homework for two things; to reinforce the lesson that was taught in class, provide additional practice so students can be successful and to become familiar with topics to be covered in class the following day. Homework is due the next class period unless otherwise stated by me. You can expect your student to have homework **EVERYDAY**. I expect homework to be done to the best of their ability and 100 % complete. My motto is “**No Shortcuts, No Excuses**”. My job is to support your child and give them the necessary tools to complete their homework. You can help them by checking their agenda nightly and see that they have completed their homework. Your student’s job is to write down their homework in their agenda everyday and call me if they need help. There will be an automatic one and a half hour detention the following day for homework not done or completed.

Tutoring and Planning Hours

I have an open door policy for both you and your student. My planning period is fourth period, 11:33 am – 12:33 pm. It is best you call me or the office (**504-302-7135**) to set up an appointment during my planning period. I am also available before or after school on any day except Tuesday after school.

I am available for tutoring on the following days and times.

Monday	8:00 – 8:25 am and 4:00 – 5:20 pm
Tuesday	8:00 – 8:25 am
Wednesday	4:00 – 5:20 pm
Thursday	8:00 – 8:25 am and 4:00 – 5:20 pm
Friday	8:00 – 8:25 am and 4:00 – 5:20 pm

Lab Fees

Students are asked to pay a \$15.00 lab fee. This fee will be used to pay for supplies in order to provide hands on experiences for each child. Upon paying the \$15.00, each child will receive a receipt, which will be given to the parent. Lab fees are due no later than September 11, 2009.

Classroom Expectations

- When the tardy bell rings be in your seat ready to work with all necessary materials (paper, pen, pencil, completed homework, book, etc.)
- RESPECT yourself, other students, property and your teacher.
- No eating, drinking or chewing gum in class.
- Ask permission to leave your seat or the room.
- Classroom is left neat and orderly with chairs pushed in and trash put in the trash can when leaving class.
- Cell phones and portable electronic equipment (i.e. iPods, PSPs etc.) will be off and kept out of sight during school hours. **Remember if I see it (or hear it) you won't for the next two weeks!**
- Follow all school-wide rules and expectations. (pgs 15-17 in the school agenda)
- You will participate in classroom activities. (Attend class mentally and physically)
- You will turn in 100% of the assignments 100% of the time. (Excused absences see me for due date)
- You will use language and behavior appropriate for the classroom: No profanity (Rule of thumb: If you can't say it in front of your grandmother or your pastor, then it's inappropriate!), insults, put-downs, horsing around, etc. Be considerate to those around you.
- CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
- You will work hard to succeed.

Class Rules The 5Ps

- **Be Prompt**
 - No tardies; this not only hurts you, but it is disrespectful to your classmates!
 - Regular attendance
- **Be Prepared**
 - Ready for class
 - Know and use safe lab procedures
- **Be Polite**
 - Treat EVERYONE with respect
 - Use appropriate behavior and participation
- **Be Persistent**
 - Strive for excellence
- **Be Proud**
 - Set high expectations
 - Maintain clean and organized work

Consequences

Consequences include but are not limited to the following:

1. After school classroom detention.
2. After school classroom detention and phone call to parent(s)
3. Office referral to disciplinarian
4. Suspension.

School-Wide Policies

Dress code/ Uniform Policy

The official Karr school uniform consists of a purple golf shirt, khaki long pants, black belt, socks and black closed toe shoes. Uniforms are worn daily and are neat, clean, and follow school uniform guidelines. Shirts must be tucked in and *pants MUST be worn at the waist*. Oversized belt buckles and oversized jewelry are not permitted. Infractions will result in being assigned school wide detention held after school in the cafeteria.

Academic Honesty Policy

Karr students are expected to complete all assignments and all tests/exams honestly. To ensure that all Karr students produce their own work, the following Academic Honesty Policy is enforced. For the purposes of this policy, cheating is defined as “accepting or providing work or information that is not one’s own.”

Major: <u>Exam, Chapter/Unit Test, Research/Term Paper</u>		Minor: <u>Quiz, Class work, Homework</u>
1st Offense	F on assignment, parent-teacher conference	F on assignment, phone call to parent
2nd Offense	F on assignment, in-school counseling, removal from elected office/position, unable to represent the school at outside academic or leadership functions	F on assignment, parent-teacher conference
3rd Offense	F on assignment, Saturday School	F on assignment, in-school counseling, removal from elected office/position, unable to represent the school at outside academic or leadership functions
4th Offense	F on assignment, suspension	F on assignment, Saturday School,
5th Offense	F on assignment, suspension	F on assignment, suspension
6th + Offense	F on assignment, suspension	F on assignment, suspension