



# Edna Karr Secondary School



*A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*

2009-2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am Ms. Sheila C. Lumod, your son's/daughter's BIOLOGY TEACHER for school year 2009-2010. I have been teaching science for 16 years and currently holding Louisiana Teaching Certification. I have high expectations of my students and I demand high quality work. I believe that every student is capable of learning and by providing rigorous activities; he/she will be well-equipped with the necessary skills to prepare him/her for college and succeed in life.

I want to commend you for taking your daughter to a challenge of a life-long learning here at Edna Karr High School. I am looking forward to work with you to provide your son/daughter with opportunities for his/her integral development. To ensure that your son/daughter is working to his/her full potential, I need your cooperation. I would like to work with you as a partner in achieving the school's vision and mission of a world-class education. Please visit the class website at [www.slumod.eboard](http://www.slumod.eboard) and find the syllabus, class activities, assignments and homework so you will be able to follow-up at home. You can track your child's progress by visiting the powerschool website.

This year, I received grants from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries of the Office of the Governor in the amount of \$2,000 to fund the project *Water Quality of New Orleans Waters* and from [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org), an online charity that funds teachers' projects, in the amount of \$2,455 worth of science equipment and materials. I am required to submit photos to show that the materials are actually used in the classroom. In view of this, I am requesting your permission to take pictures and submit photos to these institutions. Please sign the photo release forms attached with this letter. More communications will be coming that require your signature so please keep posted through your daughter or the class website.

I pledge my commitment to help your son/daughter succeed this year. I will need to contact you during my planning period or after school, so please complete the parent signature page for your phone number and e-mail address. I am available for tutoring on Mondays/Wednesdays (4:00-5:00 pm) and Tuesdays (8:00-8:30 am) If you need to schedule for an appointment, I am available for conferences between 11:30-12:00 noon or after 3:50pm Monday-Thursday. You may call me at 339-6839, leave a message with the secretary at 302-7135 or email me at [Sheila.Lumod@theacsa.org](mailto:Sheila.Lumod@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 productive and successful year!

Sincerely,

©Ms. Sheila Lumod

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

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

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

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

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

### 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:

Classwork (Do Now's / In Class-Assignments) -----	10%
Homework (Given Monday – Friday) -----	5%
Labs -----	20%
Projects -----	15%
Tests & Quizzes -----	25%
Semester Exam -----	25%

**Grading Scale**

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



- Bio Buck will be given to students who display positive behavior and follow the expectations. The students can purchase supplies using the BioBuck. The available supplies will vary.
- The BioBuck can be exchanged for passes (late homework pass, free homework pass, 5 bonus points, computer time, restroom pass).
- The BioBuck can be used as entry to the Student of the Month.

**Consequences**

If a student violates the class expectations or class rules, Ms. Lumod will follow the schedule of consequences below.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Teacher Consequence: Morning or After School Detention

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Parent/Teacher Conference (Phone call or in person)

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Administrative Conference (Referral form)

4<sup>th</sup> Offense: 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.

**Use of Electronics Policy**

Radios, cassette players, CD players, MP3 players, iPODS, and beepers are prohibited and will be confiscated. Cell phones are allowed but must be turned off before the student enters the school building and *must be kept out of view*. **Students are not allowed cellular phones during the school day.** Improper use will result in the confiscation for a minimum of two weeks of the cell phone; parents may retrieve confiscated cell phones at the principal’s discretion. **Possession of cell phones during standardized testing will result in suspension and the student’s test will be voided.**

**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.”

<b>Major:</b> <i>Exam, Chapter/Unit Test, Research/Term Paper</i>		<b>Minor:</b> <i>Quiz, Class work, Homework</i>
<b>1st</b>	F on assignment, parent-teacher conference	F on assignment, phone call to parent

<b>Offense</b>		
<b>2nd Offense</b>	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
<b>3rd Offense</b>	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
<b>4th Offense</b>	F on assignment, suspension	F on assignment, Saturday School,
<b>5th Offense</b>	F on assignment, suspension	F on assignment, suspension
<b>6th + Offense</b>	F on assignment, suspension	F on assignment, suspension

**Attendance:**

Louisiana law states that if a student misses six unexcused days in a semester they fail that semester.

**Lab Safety:**

Safety is the most important priority in lab activities. Each student will receive a Student Safety Contract. Students and parents are required to read and sign the contract. Serious consequences will be applied to students who violate the lab safety rules and procedures.

**Make-Up Work:**

- If a student is absent from school and he/she has an official note excusing the absence, he/she has TWO WEEKS from the return to school to make up any missed assignments. Assignments for each day can be found in the file in the front of the class. AFTER TWO WEEKS, ASSIGNMENTS WILL GO FROM INCOMPLETE TO A FAILING GRADE.
- If a student is absent on test day, the student must come within the following week to take the test either after school or during lunch. AGAIN, TESTS MUST BE MADE UP WITHIN TWO WEEKS.
- If a student is absent the day before the test, the student MUST still take the test. The student is responsible for studying while absent (tests are scheduled far in advance).

- Any student who needs to do a make-up work must schedule for an appointment with the teacher a day before the schedule.

## **PARENT SIGNATURE PAGE**

### **BIOLOGY**

**2009-2010**

**MS. LUMOD**

I have reviewed the parent letter and student syllabus for BIOLOGY. I understand my child receives a homework grade (10 points) for handing this page to Ms. Lumod.

Student Name:

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Parent/Guardian Name(s):

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Parent/Guardian Signature(s):

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

(PLEASE LIST MULTIPLE CONTACT NUMBERS/EMAIL ADDRESSES)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers(s):

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Email Address(es):

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## PHOTO RELEASE FORM

I am the adult participant or the legal parents or guardian of the child participant named above. I hereby give permission for the participant to be photographed (with or without other classmates in a particular picture) in Ms. Lumod's class. I understand, agree and give permission to display the photographs in the class, school or donors website.

X \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_