

**FCS Eagles
Science Class
Parent Orientation Letter**

Dear Parent,

I am glad to be your child's biology science teacher this year. I share your desire to help your child excel spiritually as well as academically.

Because parental involvement is an important part of FCS philosophy and for your child's training, I am sending you the goals of our science class. This will help you help your child. Please feel free to call and offer help if you think of something that can be done to improve our class.

Classroom activities

The emphasis of science class is thinking skills. To accomplish this, in addition to lecture, note review, and homework; there is class discussion of 1) current events in science, 2) lessons from the textbook, and 3) individual science projects.

Grades

Grades are based on performance in homework, tests, and a science project. Homework is always assigned for each chapter we are studying and is graded in class as part of our class discussion. Test questions are based on the homework and class discussions.

Science projects

Science projects are graded on participation. Half of the points come from turning in ten point assignments. Some students think ten points are nothing to worry about, but it adds up in the end. Every point is important when the grade is given. More importantly, students who do not keep up with the science project schedule miss the opportunity for in class help. I do not offer extra time to help delinquent students catch up. Because much class time is devoted to science project design and critique, students who do not participate waste a lot of time and risk failing a quarter. A student will not receive a passing grade if he/she does not have a passing grade for the science project.

Every year our school has been represented in regional and state level science and engineering fair competition. Several years ago, we swept the junior high regional division with first place winners. This year, I would like to achieve greater success because of experience and enthusiasm in the students and our science club.

Science club

The science club is for any student interested. We are planning one field trip each semester and a special event each quarter.

Helping your student

How can you help your child, our science class, and me?

1. Make sure your student is doing chapter homework and science project assignments.
2. Ask to see paperwork from biology class.

3. I need someone to design, coordinate (two or more parents?), and teach labs. I will give as much as once a week to anyone wanting to do this. Even once a semester is better than nothing.
4. Science project assistants to help students with questions, ideas, and schedule.
5. Field trip monitors. Some parents have helped with setting up tours of facilities where they work.
6. Pray for us.
7. Help substitute for classes when Steven Clardy and I am unable to attend.
8. Familiarize yourself with our science class at <http://scienceatfcs.brineyweb.com> and on Facebook.

This is all that comes to mind for now. If there is something else that you would like to offer to do, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Pat Briney, Ph.D.
FCS Science Chairman
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Parent Signature

Activity to offer volunteer help