August 15, 2022

Parent/Guardian,

It is officially time to get back into the swing of things and kick off a new school year! We are excited, as always, for another great year at Seagoville High School, and look forward to you and your student being a part of the many opportunities that our Career & Technical Education courses have to offer.

If you are receiving this information then your student is enrolled in an Agriculture Mechanics/Welding/Agriculture Power Systems course. For many students, Ag. Mech. courses can be some of the most enjoyable and educational courses they take during high school. We take pride in providing students with the opportunity to develop real-world skills in dealing with welding/metal fabrication, woodworking, small engine repair/maintenance, and agricultural tractors and machinery in a real-world work environment. The SHS Agriculture Science Department is fortunate to have state-of-the-art facilities for working and learning, and we are excited that your student will have access to those facilities. Much of the Agriculture Mechanics curriculum is taught experientially, meaning that we learn by doing! Students will be expected to spend a majority of their class time working with their hands, learning new processes, and developing skills in both the Agriculture Mechanics and Agriculture Power Systems labs. Since the lab setting is a very unique place to learn, it requires some policies and rules that are not normally applied in the average high school classroom.

With that said, the Agriculture Science teachers would like to share the attached information with you concerning the Agriculture Mechanics/Agriculture Power Systems labs. You will find information related to expectations, safety, appropriate clothing, rules, building projects, Ag. Mechanics shows, and even policies regarding classroom/lab management and course grades. Please take a few minutes to carefully read through this information and consider any questions that you might have. Please sign and date the Agriculture Mechanics student/parent/teacher agreement at the back of this packet and return it to one of the Ag. Teachers by Friday, September 2nd. It is critical for everyone to be on the same page to ensure a safe and productive learning environment in our Agriculture Mechanics Program.

Sincerely,

Seagoville High School Agriculture Science Teacher,

Christopher Chevez

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Safety Guidelines

What do I need to wear while working in the Ag. Mech/Power Systems Lab?
What must I provide? What will the school provide?

Long Pants

Preferably denim jeans with no holes or frays. Pants cannot be made of synthetic fabrics such as polyester, nylon or spandex. These materials are very flammable and will melt to the skin if they become too hot. Pants must fit appropriately and sit at the waist; loose or baggy pants can be very dangerous around the machinery and tools we use in the lab each day. You provide these.

Long Sleeve Shirt

Your shirt needs to be made of cotton. Synthetic fabrics (Yes, this includes Under Armor) can be dangerous and should not be worn in the lab. Sleeves must be full length when welding. Shirt tails that are too long must remain tucked in at all times. You provide your own shirt(s).

Close-Toed Shoes

Any and all shoes worn in the Ag. Mech/Power Systems labs must be closed toed to avoid injuries to the feet. Preferably you should wear a leather work boot or work shoe with a rubber sole. A steel or safety toe is not required but is recommended. Flip flops, Crocs, or sandals of any kind are forbidden in the lab. Tennis Shoes are permissible if they are in good condition, but may become dirty/burned while working in the lab (i.e. don't bring your brand new Nike's up here). You provide your own footwear.

Gloves

Appropriate gloves must be worn while welding to protect the hands from being burned. Leather gauntlet-style welding gloves are the ONLY gloves appropriate for welding. Other "multi-purpose" gloves may be used to protect the hands while performing other activities in the shop, but are not to be used while welding. Welding gloves will be provided by the school, but it is recommended that you bring you own to ensure proper fit and comfort.

Safety Glasses

OSHA approved Z87 safety glasses with side shields ABSOLUTELY MUST BE WORN at all times while in the lab. There is no exception to this rule. If you already wear glasses, then you must wear modified safety glasses over your regular eye glasses. **THE SCHOOL WILL SUPPLY EACH STUDENT WITH ONLY ONE PAIR OF SAFETY GLASSES. IF THOSE SAFETY GLASSES ARE LOST OR BROKEN, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO REPLACE THEM.** You are more than welcome to purchase your own safety glasses to ensure proper fit and comfort if you wish, but they must meet OSHA Z87 standards. Safety glasses lenses are to be clear, not shaded.

*If any other personal protective equipment is needed, it will be provided by the school. This might include but is not limited to ear plugs, face shields, head wear, leather aprons, masks, and cutting glasses or goggles.

Classroom/Lab Expectations & Grading Policy

- Each student will be assigned a locker in which they can store their clothes/personal protective equipment. It will also be a place to safely keep their personal belongings/other class materials while they are working in the lab. Time will be allotted at the beginning and the end of the class period (10 minutes) to change and clean up. During class however; the locker rooms **WILL** remained locked.

- All students **WILL** dress appropriately for working in the Ag. Mechanics/Ag. Power Systems labs each day. The above mentioned PPE and safety guidelines provide clear expectations for safety wear while in the shop. In addition to this, students will also be expected to abide by the following rules:
    - All long hair must be kept up, out of the face and in a ponytail
    - Jewelry is not allowed to be worn in the shop (this includes but is not limited to: rings, necklaces, bracelets, large hoop earrings and facial piercings)
    - Hats or ball caps are acceptable in the shop as long as you are not welding or grinding. In those cases, the hat is to be removed and appropriate face/head protection must be worn. Hats are prohibited in the classroom.

- Before going into the lab to work, students will be required to take a safety test. Only those students who score 100% on the safety test will be allowed to work in the shop. Students will have multiple opportunities to achieve a score of 100% if needed.

- Violations of safety rules/procedures will not be tolerated. Safety violations may result in temporary or permanent removal from working in the Ag. Mechanics lab and may be regarded as a discipline issue to be handled by the HHS administration.

- A safe productive work environment is the responsibility of everyone in the Ag. Mechanics/Ag. Power systems lab. If you follow the rules and obey safety procedures you are protecting everyone in the class and ensuring a productive class period.

- It will be the responsibility of everyone to help clean up and keep the Ag. Mechanics/Ag. Power systems labs in order. Even if you are not the one responsible for the mess, you are still expected to help clean it up. A clean shop is a safe, productive shop.

- Students are expected to work the ENTIRE class period. If a student completes a project/assignment before the end of the period, he/she will be responsible for cleaning the shop/equipment, picking up tools, assisting with another student if needed. No one is to return to the classroom early.

- Grades will be assigned and assessed on an individualized basis. Each student will be assigned a grade based on their work ethic, attitude, safe work practices, productivity, and ability to master certain skills. Grades will not be blanketed across the class based solely on participation.

- Students will be expected to put forth maximum effort each day.

Agriculture Mechanics Show Information

**In order to participate in Ag. Mechanics shows, you must be a member in good standing with the Seagoville FFA Chapter. Yearly dues are $20 to become a member. If you have any questions about the Seagoville FFA Chapter or becoming a member please see one of the Ag. Teachers as soon as possible!

Ag. Mechanics Shows Attended:

- **State Fair of Texas Ag-Mech Show** – Held in Mid October in Dallas
- **Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo** – Held in January in Fort Worth
- **Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo** – Held in March in Houston (statewide show; no sale)

Ag. Mechanics Show FAQs

What kinds of projects can I build?

There are an endless amount of possible projects for shows. They range from deer feeders to gooseneck stock trailers and picnic tables to barbecue pits. Every show classifies projects differently and allows or does not allow certain types of projects to show. Every project must be approved by the teacher. Check with them to find rules/classes for each show and determine what the best type of project is for you to build.

How much does it cost to build an Ag. Mechanics project?

The cost of each project depends greatly on the project itself. A picnic table would cost significantly less than a 16 foot lowboy trailer. Once your project is approved by the teacher, the first step is to develop a set of plans and a bill of materials. This bill of materials will be used to develop a budget for your project.

Who pays for the project?

Projects must be financed solely by the exhibitor. After you submit your bill of materials to the teacher, we can determine which materials the school will order and which materials you must obtain on your own and bring to the shop. You will be expected to keep excellent financial records for your project. This includes all receipts and invoices. Materials purchased by the school will be invoiced to the student and payment will be expected at the end of the project building period. Many times, the Ag. Teachers will be approached by members of the community to build them a project. If we take those projects on, then the owner will pay for the entire project. At the end of the building/show period then the project will be delivered to the owner.

Do I have to be UIL eligible to exhibit an Ag. Mechanics project?

Yes, of course. No pass, no play rules apply to all extra-curricular & co-curricular activities. You must be eligible in order to exhibit at any show.

Who transports my projects to and from the shows?

The school will be able to transport projects to and from the shows unless other arrangements need to be made. It will be your responsibility to come up with a plan with the Ag. Teachers well in advance.

What expenses do I pay when we travel out of town to Dallas/San Antonio/Houston?

The school will provide hotel costs, travel expenses, and some (not all) meals while attending/participating in statewide Ag. Mechanics shows only. You will be responsible for the remaining meals and any other spending money that you feel is necessary. You will also be responsible for any costs during local (Harvest Festival/Farm City Week) Ag. Mechanics shows. However; there are plenty of opportunities to earn the cost of those meals that are not originally provided for through participating in chapter fundraising activities, as well as working in the Ag. Booster's concessions stand at all home football games. Exhibiting satisfactory participation in these activities could help offset some of the financial burden of attending Ag. Mechanics shows and contests. If you need more information please ask a teacher!

Can I make money from showing/selling Ag. Mechanics projects?

Exhibiting Ag. Mechanics projects is primarily a learning experience. Our main goal is for you to obtain the skills necessary to become employable in this field once you graduate from high school. With that being said, there is a possibility to make some money showing Ag. Mechanics projects if you are successful, but there is also a good chance you will not make any money.

What happens if my project doesn't sell?

If your project does not sell at one of the local shows, it belongs to you. In some instances the teachers can help you find a buyer outside of the show, but ultimately we are not responsible for your project and cannot guarantee that it will be sold. We also cannot guarantee that you will receive enough payment to record a profit.

Can anyone build and show an Ag. Mechanics project?

Any student who is enrolled in an Ag. Mechanics course during the year, and is a paid Seagoville FFA member in good standing with the chapter is eligible to build/exhibit a project. The project method of learning is one of the strong points of our program and we highly encourage students to participate. However, student behavior and attitude will be taken into consideration. Every project we build or show we attend is a representation of Seagoville ISD's legacy of excellence. If a teacher or administrator feels that a student has not demonstrated a consistent record of discipline or respect, that student may not be allowed to build and/or show a project. It is a privilege, not a right.

Can my friends and I build a project as a group?

Yes, groups can get together to build a project. Once again, it must be approved by the teacher. Some shows limit the size of the group so be sure to find that out before you begin the project.

Can I build personal (not for show) projects in the shop?

As Agriculture Science teachers who teach Ag. Mechanics courses, we do our best to create authentic learning experiences for our students and keep busy with meaningful projects that will provide the best opportunity for each student to develop their skills in the shop. Personal projects are discouraged, but depending on what it is, the possibility exists. Check with your teacher to find out more.

Is it okay for me to work on projects outside of my scheduled class period?

In short, no. You will not be allowed to come to the Ag shop to work during another course unless prior approval is granted by all parties involved. There will be times when projects that must be completed for shows require extra work outside of class in order to complete. In those cases, it will be up to the instructor to schedule work days or work nights. That will be communicated with the students when needed.