

# Introduction to Technology/Agriculture

2025-26 Course Syllabus

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

### Instructor

Carolyn Wright

### Email

[cwright@genvalley.org](mailto:cwright@genvalley.org)

### Class Location & Phone

Innovation Center 1163  
585-268-7900 ext. 1163

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Grade Level: 8

### Course Duration: Full year, meets once daily

\*This course will work closely with Digital Technology (which meets at the same time) to complete and enhance course content. Students will move between Rm 1161, 1159, and 1163.

### Description:

AgTech 8 covers many of the STEAM learning disciplines - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Students will receive fundamental training in a shop environment and how to safely use tools and materials to their greatest advantage. They will also be exposed to the steps of the engineering design process and how to use digital media resources to communicate their solutions. Finally, students will be introduced to Agriculture and FFA at large by exploring select industries within the field of Agriculture and specific components of the FFA organization. These may include but are not limited to vegetable production, hydroponics, sustainability & conservation, food science, People in Agriculture, and Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs).

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Required Materials/Resources

- iPads and Laptops
- 1 subject notebook
- 1 pocket folder
- CNC/Laser Engraver
- Positive, ready-to-work attitude
- Pencils (and pens)
- Woodshop- power and hand tools
- Garden & Hydroponic Systems

## EXPECTATIONS

### Do the right thing, even when no one is watching

#### 1. Be Respectful:

Treating others with the same **value**, **appreciation**, and **consideration** as you would for yourself.

- Create a **positive environment**. **DO NOT COMPLAIN**.
- **Raise your hand** to contribute to discussion.
- **Use appropriate language**.
- Hats, hoodies, and sunglasses are not permitted.
- **Take care of class materials**.

- **No cell phones or unauthorized electronic device usage.**
- Only leave class if there is an emergency.

## 2. Be Responsible:

Taking care of the items **entrusted** to you and the materials **provided for you**. Looking out for the welfare of others.

- You are responsible for learning material.
- Clean up after yourself and put things away where they belong.
- **Know when projects are due.**
- Be a good **digital citizen**.
- If you are absent, make sure to get the work you missed.
- **Use your time wisely.**
- Always watch out for the **safety of others**.
- **DO NOT CRUSH PENCILS IN THE TABLE VICES!!** If I see you do this, you will lose participation points for the day. Other consequences may follow.

## 3. Be Ready:

Be **prepared** for any situation or challenge. **Think ahead and plan**. Meet your **deadlines**.

- Come equipped for class (have your iPad charged, a pencil/pen, etc).
- **Position of engagement**- Posture, body language, eye contact.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Always follow all **emergency policies**.

## 4. Be Resilient:

Never say CAN'T. Think positive and **TRY, TRY, AGAIN**. Don't accept defeat the first time.

- **Be teachable**.
- Accept failure and mistakes then try again.
- **Be confident** in your abilities
- Step up and help or lead when called.

## Disruptions:

Any behavior, determined by me, considered to be damaging to the learning process of students or the instruction from the teacher.

These will result in:

1. ONE warning: Pay attention to subtle cues. These are to save you any embarrassment.
2. Parent contact and or a lunch detention. Referral to the office if necessary.
3. Removal from the classroom

## GRADING POLICY

Students will be assessed in the Standards-based grading format. Your learning will be assessed on how well you meet the standard for each topic learned.

Their course grade will be broken into two divisions:

1. **Project based learning** - Feedback will be given on how well a student applies concepts learned in class as demonstrated in their projects. This covers, not only classroom information, but also 21st century skills that the professional environment is looking for.
2. **Learner Behaviors** - Grading will be provided weekly on their behaviors towards learning in the class. Think of this as a "job performance" type grade or a weekly participation grade.

## STANDARD GRADES EXPLAINED

- 4 - Exceeds grade level standard for the learning goal. (GREAT!)
- 3 - Meets grade level standard for learning goal. (Good Job!)
- 2 - Approaching grade level standard for learning goal. (Not bad, just needs a little work.)
- 1- Fails to meet grade level standard for learning goal. (Needs a little more help.)

\*\* Students will also be given their grade in the form of a percentage like they will be graded in high school. This grade will show up in the Teacher comment section of the report card.

## ASSIGNMENT CATEGORIES

**Projects:** All projects will be introduced during class and class time to complete the projects will be provided. If the class time provided is not adequate for students to complete the project, additional time may be added at the instructor's discretion. Otherwise, students may be required to come down during free periods or work on it at home. If this is the case, students will be notified in advance. All projects will be due at the end of the day (EOD) on the assigned deadline to be eligible for full credit. It is totally acceptable to turn in projects early or during class on the day that they are due. **Projects may be submitted in person or on TEAMS. Check the assignment details to be sure.**

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be announced at **least 2 days in advance** of the day it will be given. Quizzes are based on the course material covered during class. Taking good notes is encouraged during class because notes can be used on any quiz unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Learning is still happening during a quiz and your notes help facilitate that. Quizzes will generally be less than 25 questions and be mostly multiple choice. Depending on the unit, quizzes may be done on paper or online.

**Homework:** This IS NOT busy work. Any homework that is assigned is designed to help move the course material along by serving as additional practice or preparation for the material that is to come during class discussions. This may include vocabulary, short readings, design planning worksheets, or practice worksheets. Homework is expected to be done by the start of class on the day that it is due, and it will be looked at for completion. Students will receive a grade of complete or incomplete (3 or 1). No late work will be accepted.

## LATE WORK

Late work will be reflected in either the project-based or learner behavior grades depending on the nature of the work. Late work may cause students to be placed on the Inel list and parents will be notified. Students will remain on the Inel list until all late work has been submitted. Late work submitted after the last day of the quarter will not be recorded.

There will be no class time for students to finish late work. Students must complete it on their own time - during study halls, after school, or at home.

## ABSENCES/MISSED WORK

Due date extensions will be granted in the same measure of days you were absent. If you were absent (3) days, your due date will be extended (3) days. This does not apply during the last week of the quarter without a doctor's note or parent contact.

**\*You are expected to ask me what you missed while you were absent\***

If students have questions about any missed work, they can ask to come down during my free period(s) and I will help them.

## INELIGIBILITY

Placement on the Ineligibility List (Inel) can be narrowed down to two factors: Learner Behaviors and Class Expectations. In the event this must be used, we will have discussed changes that need to be made to learner behaviors and/or meeting class expectations long before you are assigned to the Inel list. Failure to make those changes will result in placement on the Inel list. (See the student handbook for policies and restrictions). Attitudes towards success are directly related to performance in class and meeting expectations.

## SUCCESS

Completion of this course successfully means you have experienced new challenges, exercised new or existing skills, and gained knowledge about the design, engineering, and agricultural fields. **The degree to which you want to succeed is dependent entirely on your effort as a student. You will get out of the course what you put into it.**

## **COURSE UNITS**

*\*The instructor reserves the right to modify and/or make changes to the course schedule and topics covered at any time.*

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
1	Intro to Tech Systems Communication Safety	September	Hand Tool Concept Sort Hand Tool ID Chart Safety Quizzes
2	Intro to Power Tools Tech Drawing Sanding	October	Core Values Wkst. Scroll Saw & Band Saw Safety Quizzes Value Chain Link Project
3	Fasteners	October	Fasteners and their Uses Activity
4	Measuring	Nov./Dec.	Campfire Stool Project

Unit	Topic	Time	Assignments
	Common Wood Materials Cutback & Material Yield		Miter Saw, Table Saw, Combo Sander Safety Quizzes
5	People In Agriculture	Dec./Jan.	People In Agriculture LDE
6	Forces, Stress, & Structures	Jan./Feb.	Fastest In Class Experiment Forces Notes Popsicle Stick Bridge
7	Transportation	Feb./March	Air Powered Cars
8	Agriculture Everyday	March/April	Timeline to 7 Billion Activity Basic Provisions Activity Grown in the U.S.
9	Hydroponics	April	Soda Bottle Hydroponics
10	Soil Vegetable Production	April/May	Soil Threat/Solution Presentation Reading a Seed Packet Activity Raised Beds Garden Diagram & Produce Pitch
11	Food Science	May/June	Product Development Project Ice Cream Flavor

## OTHER CLASSROOM POLICIES

### Cell Phones/Backpacks

- Cell phones will not be used. They should be turned off and stored in your lockers or in your backpacks - NOT ON YOUR PERSON.
  - **This is the one and only warning.** If I see cell phones out, it will be confiscated by me and held in the office until the end of the day.
- Backpacks will be placed in the back of the classroom along the wall between the brooms and the tool chest- this way they are easily accessible but won't present a tripping hazard
- iPads should only be used when clearly stated by the instructor.

### Bathroom

- Students must respectfully ask to use the bathroom during class.
- Students will sign out and sign back in when leaving and returning respectively.
- Students may be asked to wait until I finish providing instruction or am at a good stopping point before leaving for the bathroom.
- Only **ONE** boy and **ONE** girl will be allowed to use the bathroom at the same time.
- If students spend more than 10 minutes of class in the bathroom their Learner Behavior grade may be impacted.

## Food/Drink

- Students are allowed to bring water bottles to class as long as they have a closed top and cannot be spilled.
  - **WATER** only will be allowed in class
- No snacks will be allowed during class primarily for safety as students work with equipment, paint, etc.

\*If water bottles become a problem in class such that it hinders positive learning for other students, I reserve the right to take away the privilege of bringing water bottles to class. If this is privilege is severely abused, further disciplinary action may be implemented.

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### To the parents/guardians of Miss. Wright's students:

It is an honor and privilege to have your student in class, and a responsibility I do not take lightly. The guidelines outlined above are in my best effort to create an environment that is safe, fair, and clear to all. Once you have had a chance to review this syllabus with your student, please sign the last page and have your student return it to class during the first week of school. If there are any questions regarding these policies, or other concerns you or your student may have, please feel free to contact me by email at [cwright@genvalley.org](mailto:cwright@genvalley.org), by phone at 585-268-7900 ext. 1163 or by sending me a message on Parent Square.

Best Regards,

*Carolyn Wright*

# SYLLABUS

## Parent Contact / Signature Form

To be filled out by parent/guardian:

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Circle one: Home or cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you like to be contacted(circle one):      Phone      Email      Text

(Parent) Are there any areas of technology, agriculture, natural resources, or industry that you are particularly proficient or skilled in?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand course procedures and grading policies for the listed below. I/we will agree as parents/guardians to do my /our part in helping our student do the best they can in being successful in this course during the year. I /we will contact Miss. Wright with concerns or questions throughout.

\_\_\_\_\_

Course Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*