Instructional Plan for Neuroscience

Course Overview

Neuroscience is the first in a pathway of courses to be rolled out for our STEM+M program partnership with Baylor College of Medicine. STEM+M stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Conduct hands-on investigations: frequent labs
- Build interactive Notebooks: Used for vocabulary, diagrams, notes, and reflections
- Use modeling & simulations: Digital and physical models to support abstract concepts
- Collaborate in learning: Group activities, peer discussion, and cooperative lab work
- Participate in STEM+M inquiry and research: Impact of Neuroscience

Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a safe learning place, which encourages teamwork, positive feedback, and academic achievement. All students will be respectful to others. We will be good listeners to the teacher and to other's ideas. All students will be hard working contributors in the process of getting their education in order to be successful and reach their full potential.

Expectation 1: Be prepared with supplies

- Prioritize attendance
- Be ready to learn everyday

Expectation 2: Participate actively and take responsibility for your learning

- Complete all assigned tasks
- Engage in class discussions, writing tasks, labs, and learning opportunities
- Complete work on time

Expectation 3: Be safe

- Handle lab equipment and materials with care
- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult

Positive reinforcement and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations. If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.

Continued enrollment in the STEM+M program is dependent upon student participation and commitment to advanced learning.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is vital to your child's academic development. Neuroscience is an important foundation for future STEM+M courses. When students attend daily, they stay current with new skills, deepen their knowledge of the science and medical fields, develop thinking skills, and practice important habits that support lifelong learning.

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Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the year, students will have developed neuroscience knowledge such as:

- Structure and function of the nervous system
- Brain health
- Brain chemistry
- Sensory system
- Motor system
- Memory and learning
- Impact of neuroscience on medicine and technology

Course Resources

- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Journals and writing utensils (part of the school supply list)
- Baylor College of Medicine materials

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:
The summative evaluation of a student's grade during a recording period should be based on sufficient data collected in class in the form of various assessments. Regular and periodic assessment of student progress ensures a student has ample time for remediation.

Major assignments - 60% Minor assignments - 40%
Semester exams count as 15% toward the final semester grade

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

Please fill out the portion below and return that portion to your teacher.

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We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in Neuroscience. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature : _____

Student Signature: _____

Date:_____