

Garden & Forest

Mr. Evans
2023-2024

Overview

Welcome to Sutter Middle Schools newest block elective: Garden and Forest! This class will be a fun and creative way for you to learn science.

This course is a “hands-on” introduction to two topics: plant biology and forest ecosystems. Both topics act as more in-depth extensions to topics you will learn in your “normal” science classes.

While learning **plant biology**, we will be utilizing the campus garden right outside our room. The garden consists of 16 planters and a central sitting area that can accommodate 32 students. This part of course will be project-based, with a variety of lessons centered around students growing plants and performing observation and experiments in the garden.

Of course, a lot of day are just not good days to be working out doors... which brings us to the the second major topic of the course is **forest ecosystems**. During our indoor days, students will do research-based projects to learn about forest ecosystems around the world.

The two topics of garden and forest will be intermixed throughout the semester. The forest research projects will mostly be completed early in the semester and the garden projects later in the semester. However that may change on a daily basis. Some days we will be outside working on our garden projects, some days we will be inside working on our forest research. **It depends on the weather!**

Also, even though this is a Garden and Forest class, you may also be working on certain other projects that cover different science topics :)

Important

- We will be outside in the garden often! Please dress appropriately
- Please use sunscreen on sunny days!
- Much of what you will be doing will be student-driven. More motivation means more fun!
- **I am very strict about safety!** Any behavior that I deem unsafe will result in consequences up to and including removal from the class.

Grading

The grading in this class is entirely effort based! Each day you will receive a score 1-10 based on how on-task you are your projects.

- 10 = On-task all class period while giving your best effort
- 8-9 = Mostly on task throughout the day, or not giving 100% effort
- 6-7 = You were working while I was looking... but not doing your best.
- 1-5 = Not a passing effort
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Grades can be accessed online at <http://powerschool.fcusd.org>. Please take advantage of this option to keep track of your progress. Grades will be entered on a weekly basis.

Class Rules

My class rules are fairly simple. Three main rules:

1. **Don't prevent other students from learning**
2. **Don't prevent yourself from learning**
3. **Don't prevent the teacher from teaching**

The discipline policy is as outlined in the student handbook.

Misc:

- Gum, food, and drinks (besides water), are NOT allowed during class.
- Students may have plain water in a water bottle.
- *Contraband will be confiscated:* If it isn't allowed in the classroom (i.e. phones, soda, etc.) it will be taken until the end of the day (and cell phones are sent to the office).
- Certain actions can result in class suspension without prior warnings. These include:
 - Vandalism
 - Sexual harassment
 - Physical altercations
 - Dangerous behavior
- A lab behavior contract is included with the student handbook. Please review it. By signing this paper you are agreeing to abide by all lab rules.

Student Name: _____ Period _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

(by signing above you acknowledge having read and agreed to this syllabus)

** If you have any question please feel free to contact me at: ccevans@fcusd.org.