Middle School Horticulture

Course Overview:
Are you ready to be outside, in the greenhouse, learn about the plant world around you and do hands on, project based learning? Then middle school horticulture is a great place for you to call home. In this 9 week long course, we will introduce you to many aspects of horticulture and give you a taste of the fields of study you could pursue in the future. We will learn about the plants that grow on our campus, in our greenhouses and in our garden. We will discover their ecological, medicinal and culinary uses. We will learn how to identify and grow a variety of plants here and at home. We will also get to taste and cook with our local plants!

Units and Activities: What will we be learning about and doing in this course?

Unit 1: Plant ID studies
Unit 2: Plant functions and processes
Unit 3: Plants are Food!
Final Project: Students will research a particular plant and plant process that will be made into a cumulative guide for all students to take home and use in the future.

Standards: What knowledge and skills will I gain by the end of this course?

Anchor Standards: This course will assess the knowledge and skills students build in key Anchor Standards and Content Standards.

Plant Environmental Control: Determine plant health and requirements
Plant Propagation: Propagate plants using both sexual and asexual methods
Plant Science Taxonomy: Use taxonomic system to identify a given plant(s)
Clear and Effective Communication: Communicate information clearly and effectively
HOWLs: preparation, participation, and perseverance (Project based learning)

Content Standards: This course builds student knowledge using the Vermont State standards. The content standards for Horticulture are:
Vermont Agency of Education Career Tech Standards: Horticulture
Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Vermont’s Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities. Students use scientific methods to describe, investigate, and explain phenomena: Raise questions;
Generate alternative explanations -- hypotheses -- based on observations and prior knowledge;
Design inquiry that allows these explanations to be tested;
Gather and analyze data to compare the actual results to the expected outcomes.
In addition, the following sections apply under Horticulture Science and technology fundamentals: 1.3, 1.10, 1.15, 1.17, 1.18, 1.19, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.7, 7.8, 7.10, 7.11 and 7.13. These sections focus on plant and flower identification along with landscape design.
Assessment of Learning:
For information about assessment types, scoring, and overall grade calculation: click here.

Communication:
How Do I Access Work from Home, and What Should I Expect?
● All work will be posted in Google Classroom.
● The work will be explained during our in-person meetings and/or by video posted to Google Classroom.
● The work will also be explained in our Class Planner posted to Google Classroom.
● If you have any questions, email your teacher.

How Do I Know What My Grades Are?
● On Summative Assessments, teachers will provide both a 4-point grade and a letter grade.
● You can monitor your progress in the following ways:
  ○ By reading feedback and scoring returned to students on summative assessments.
  ○ By monitoring the scores and Overall Course Mastery Grade in the Parent/Student portal on JumpRope. Reminders to check grades will be sent from the school.
  ○ Communicating with your teacher if you are unclear.

Where Can I Find This Syllabus during the School Year?
● This syllabus will be available on the school website in each subject’s department tab once the school year is up and running. It will also be available in our Google Classroom.

How Do I See What’s Due?
● Assignment and summative assessment due dates with handouts are posted in Google Classroom, with connection to Google Calendar, for student access.

How Do I See What’s Past Due?
● If a student is missing a grade on an assessment, it will be listed in the red “Missing Assessment” section of the JumpRope Parent/Student Portal along with any attachments. Please contact your teacher if you have any questions.

Materials:
This class will provide books and other resources that you might need for learning content. Students should bring a notebook and something to write with to class as well
as a folder and/or binder for storing any papers they might need. Students should have their chrome books and charging cord.

**Schoolwide Procedures:**
Please see the Student Handbook for Procedures and Policies related to: Due dates and deadlines, extra credit, retaking assessments, and turnaround time for grade entry.

**Personal Mobile Devices:** This class will follow the procedures outlined in the student handbook.

**Classroom Expectations:**
The expectations for this class are that you are here on time (our time is limited!), you are focused on the task at hand and fully participate in all activities. Please show care in your work and show respect for yourself and others. It is also expected that you complete assignments on time and to the best of your ability. Your effort and engagement are essential to success in this course. Please, please, please, ask for help when you need it and don’t ever hesitate to advocate for yourself and your learning.