

Fort Bend ISD
Hightower High School



P-TECH Dean of Instruction: Adrienne Towns

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Subject: Pre-AP Chemistry

Instructor: C. Baker

Room: Y-1

Office Hours: Thursday 8:00 to 8:50 am

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Welcome P-TECH Family

I would like to congratulate you and your family for returning to instruction. As you are aware, there are many changes this year. During the year, I intend to keep things as prepared and clear as I can for you. We will have constant communication and accountability as we utilize the following online tools:

Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams, Schoology, and Skyward

This newly implemented tool will be used to conduct office hours, and synchronous learning (face-to-face class time) daily. With this tool, students and teachers may see each other, converse live and do interactive activities!

Schoology

Schoology will have all your child's assignments posted weekly for each class. Student and Parent folders are accessible with information, assignments, due dates, etc. Teachers may post reminders on Schoology, so it is important to log in daily!

Skyward

Skyward is where you will see your child's grades for each class. Be sure to review Skyward often to communicate the importance of GPA (Grade Point Average) with your child as grading will resume regular this fall. Here is the 9-week schedule posted for this year:

End of first 9 weeks (T1):	10/9/20
End of second 9 weeks (T2):	12/18/20
End of third 9 weeks (T3):	3/12/21
End of fourth 9 weeks (T4):	5/26/21

Fort Bend ISD 2020-2021 Academic Calendar: https://www.fortbendisd.com/cms/lib/TX01917858/Centricity/Domain/17747/2020-21_Instructional%20Calendar_English%207.16.2020Final%20Draft.pdf

Regarding expectations for the 2020 school year, safety, respect, and compassion are imperative. As we actively demonstrate these essential qualities for our students, Fort Bend ISD requests all employees, parents, and students to practice the following expectations:

Attendance

As usual, attendance will be taken daily. Part of the new attendance procedures will be the necessity of seeing the student's face while logged into Synchronous Learning (live class time or office hours). Should the student need to step away to use the restroom, he/she will be required to notify the teacher (this may be done in the live chat box option, via email, or Schoology messages). The student may then turn off his/her camera temporarily. Upon returning from the restroom, the student will need to reactivate the camera so that the teacher can see the student's face. As in the traditional classroom, students not "arriving" to class (logging in) on time or logging in without showing their face will suffer attendance issues. Parents of students not logging into class daily will receive phone calls or emails from teachers and campus administration.

However, Fort Bend ISD teachers understand there may be other circumstances preventing instant communication. In the event that such an incident occurs, we ask that parents and students maintain accountability by contacting teachers as soon as possible to work out any issues. *We are here for you!*

Grading

All traditional letter grading will resume in Fort Bend ISD this fall of 2020. It is imperative that parents and students check grades often, and submit homework completed, and on time. Daily participation and attendance are part of many teacher's grades. Make sure your child's face can be seen clearly by the teacher when logged into Synchronous learning sessions (face-to-face class time).

Submissions

Teachers will post individual homework due dates in Schoology. Students will have enough time to see posted due dates and adhere to them. Teachers may also request students to submit comments in the Microsoft Teams "chat" option (located in the small text icon at the pop-up bar toward the lower-mid

section of your Teams meeting screen). Using new tools this year, teachers may also request that students submit quick answers via online apps imbedded into activities, such as Kahoot, Mentimeter, Flipgrid, etc.

These chat comments may be used to assess understanding of students. Participation is essential to the online learning process. Some teachers may also include daily participation in their grade books. Be sure to check Schoology for grading policies as well as Skyward to view your child's grades often.

Campus Safety

ALL Fort Bend employees are being diligently trained in strict CDC (Centers for Disease Control) safety protocols to ensure the safety of each person on campus. Each person entering campus will be temperature-screened prior to being allowed to enter campuses. Buses and campuses are thoroughly and intensely cleansed multiple times daily. All employees are required to wear masks and sanitize classrooms. Buildings have been re-floored and painted.

We ask that students wearing masks to behave appropriately. Masks must follow dress code and be worn at all times. Mask safety is a necessary precaution. We ask students to demonstrate respect for themselves and others as we enter campus with facial masks.

Teamwork is key! Let's work together to maintain communication! 😊

Definitions

Synchronous Learning: Required face-to-face learning time between teachers and students.

Asynchronous Learning: Guided study that is NOT face-to-face learning time between teachers and students.

Signage: Signs posted throughout common areas to prompt CDC safety protocol.

CDC: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the national organization which tracks disease and works to maintain spread and sets regulations to keep people healthy.

T1-T4: Terms 1-4 in the academic school year (divided into 4 nine-week grading periods).

GPA: Grade Point Average