



**RIDGE POINT HIGH SCHOOL  
AQUATIC SCIENCE SYLLABUS  
MS. COURTNEY RAMIREZ**



ROOM: N213  
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**TUTORIALS**  
**\*\*BY REQUEST\*\***  
**AVAILABLE EVERY DAY EXCEPT FRIDAY**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Aquatic Science is an advanced level lab science course. It is the study of the largest portion of the surface of the earth. 71% of the earth is covered by the oceans. In the first semester, the formation of the oceans, the physical make-up of the ocean, and the chemical make-up will be studied. This course will evaluate freshwater and its aquatic life in the first semester. In the second semester the study will shift to the life in the oceans and human impact.

Prerequisites: Biology I, Chemistry, and Physics

### **UNITS OF STUDY**

- Aquatic Ecosystems Foundations
- Water Chemistry and Introduction to Aquatic Systems
- Cycles and Systems around the Globe
- Fresh Water on Earth and its Dynamics
- Freshwater Life
- Freshwater and Saltwater
- Marine Water on Earth and its Dynamics
- Marine Life
- Human Impact on Aquatic Systems/Restoration

### **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

- Follow all school rules
- Be on time and prepared to learn
- Participate and do your best every day
- Follow directions the first time
- BE RESPECTFUL & RESPONSIBLE

### **MATERIALS**

- **\$20 Lab Fee - paid thru Revtrak**
- **School Laptop - Using Everyday**
- Pencils & Pens
- Tissue Box - For 1st Project
- 1 hand soap
- 1 roll of paper towels
- Disposable gloves - 2nd semester dissections (can be brought in later)
- Masks (optional) - 2nd semester dissections (can be brought in later)
- 1 Vacation Feeder (Type: 7-14 days) - this will be used during school holidays (Thanksgiving Break, October Break, Winter Break, & Spring Break)



### **TANK MATERIALS**

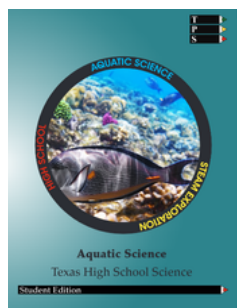
**Once tanks are set up** and stable students will be **required to purchase:**

- **1 fish** to introduce into the tank
- **Fish Food**  
\*\*\* Additional decorations can be purchased and utilized for your group \*\*\*

### **TEXTBOOK**

TPS Publishing:  
STEAM into Aquatic Science High School Edition Proclamation 2024

- **Online Textbook** can be accessed through **Clever** then click into TPS Publishing





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### DONATIONS

We are **always accepting donations** for **paper towels, hand soap**, and tissues. We go through a lot of paper towels and hand soap due to handwashing after cleaning tanks and shark dissections in the 2nd semester.

- Aquatic Science also accepts donations of aquarium supplies. Many of our tanks and aquarium decorations are due to donations.

### GRADES

**Grades will be assigned based on the following:**

- **50% =Major grades:** projects, unit tests, lab activities and various aquarium/fish health, and maintenance checkpoints
- **50% =Daily grades:** quiz, and lab grades, which include grades on the aquariums

### RE-TESTING POLICY

Aquatic Science's retesting policy is to allow students to relearn the materials and retest. Re-teaching is integrated into class time and spiraled in with the new material. The highest that can be earned on a retest is a 75. Every student has the opportunity to improve their grade.

- We allow students to take their retests in class but, a student is welcome to schedule a tutorial time to take their test or use extra time.
- Most of our major grades are projects in this course where a student can redo a project and earn up to a 75.

### SIGN UP FOR REMIND

**TEXT 81010 WITH THE CODE BELOW:**  
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Period Code: **@h78a96**  
4th, 5th, & 7th Period Code: **@9dkfgbf**

### HOMEWORK & LATE WORK POLICIES

- Schoology Homework assignments are due at 11:59 pm on the due date.
- Paper Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class the next day.
- **RPHS Late Work Policy:**
  - Daily Grades & Major Grades: -10 pts per day
  - After **5 days late** district policy is that the grade is a **ZERO!!!**

### ABSENCES & MAKE-UP WORK

Students will be given an equal amount of time to complete the work missed due to excused absence(s). Any **assignment due on the day you are absent** is to be turned in on the day you return. If you are absent **on a test day**, you should be prepared to take the test during class, on the day you return. If you are absent the **day before** a test and **no new material is covered**, you will be expected to take the test with the class.

**\*\*\* All assignments are posted in Schoology and students are given multiple days to complete them. They have access to everything even when they are absent. \*\*\***

### AQUARIUMS EXPECTATIONS

Students are responsible for the set up and care of a marine aquarium through the school year. This includes the purchase of fish, gravel, Instant Ocean (salt) and food. They will work collaboratively with classmates.

- If their fish dies the student is responsible for purchasing a compatible replacement fish within a week to introduce to their tank.



### **FIVE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**1. When do we get to work on our aquariums?**

There will be days of the week designated for work on the aquariums. Typically this is every Friday once tanks are set up.

**2. Do we fail on the aquarium if our fish die?**

Fish die and usually it is no one's fault. No, you do not fail if the fish die, but you are responsible for the maintenance of the aquarium. Please purchase a replacement fish within the a week and introduce into tank. Keep it clean and stocked with fish.

**3. Do we get to dissect anything?**

Yes, spiny dogfish normally in late March early April. This is required and major grades will be taken.

**4. What kind of stuff do we study?**

Aquatic Science will include a variety of topics which will include a wide range of scientific disciplines, such as: Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, and Physics.

**5. Can we collect from the ocean or fresh water for our aquariums?**

Yes, students may collect from the Gulf of Mexico, Brazos River, or other freshwater bodies of water to get specimens for their aquariums.

### **QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at:

**[courtney.ramirez1@fortbendisd.gov](mailto:courtney.ramirez1@fortbendisd.gov)**