

Dear Parents,

September 2017

There have been some **questions** as midterm reports have gone home about **Biology grades**. If your 9th grade student is enrolled in English I 1st hour and Biology 2nd hour, he/she in taking a Science Literacy course in which they will receive a full credit for Biology and a full credit for English at the conclusion of their 9th grade year.

Because this course in being integrated there will be one grade which will be recorded on transcripts as a Biology credit and an English credit. How is this possible and why are we doing this?

There is a great deal of supporting evidence both here at Houston and across the country, which supports our efforts. When we ask students to learn and use language skills (like reading and writing) they tend to be more engaged, learn more and hold on to the learning longer when they are able to connect it to a content area that provides purpose. Our data here at Houston clearly shows a correlation between high science scores an advanced ability to read for information. We understand the importance of this skill in the future success of our Hawks.

This is possible because we have amazing teachers who are working together as a team to integrate the Alaska Science and Language Arts standards. Students are using Biology content to learn and practice both reading and writing skills. They are also using traditional language arts strategies to learn difficult vocabulary, sentence structure and non-fiction writing.

If you log in to I-cue, and go to your child's English I grade you will see a combination of Biology and English assignments.

Our grading technology has not quite caught up with this innovative approach to meeting our students' needs to prepare them for their futures.

We have our IT departments and counselors working on a solution to that challenge.

Please be assured that we are working every day to prepare your child for both post-secondary education and tomorrow's work world.

If you have any questions or would like to come in to see how this works; please feel free to call me or stop by the school. 892-9403

Beth Buchanan

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"Growing Kids; Building Futures"

Assignments

Classwork / Homework(Wt = 10)

Lab Safety Poster

Book Cover

Journal 2

1.1 Word Map

1.1 Annotations pages 4-10

Journal 3

Journal #1

Lab Safety Contract

Formal Paragraph Brainstorm Notes: "Mi

Journal 4 "Watermelon Boy"

Journal 5

Unit 1 Section Assessment Q

Labs / Composition(Wt = 25)

Pump Lab

Literacy / Tests & Quizzes(Wt = 30)

Vocabulary I Quiz