

**Century Middle School  
Course Syllabus  
2007-2008**

<b>Course Title: Tech Explo</b>	<b>Instructor Name: Jean Schneider</b>
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<b>Course Description: This course introduces problem solving and team work where a variety of technologies are used as tools to complete the assigned tasks. Topics include: Health &amp; Safety, Science &amp; Society, Scientists, Limited Resources, Energy, Simple Machines, Solar Systems, Scientific Data, Microscopes, Epidemic, and Systems.</b>	

<b>Standard: The Student Demonstrates Proficiency with Basic Operations and Concepts</b>	<b>Activities: Each mission gives students an opportunity to practice these basic skills</b>
<b>Standard: The Student Implements Effective Research Strategies Utilizing Information and Technology Resources to Solve Problems and Make Decisions</b>	<b>Activities: Students use the computer and other reference materials to answer briefing questions and vocabulary. Students share resources among their team mates to collectively solve problems.</b>
<b>Standard: The Student Applies Productivity Tools to His/Her Learning for Effective Communication</b>	<b>Activities: Students complete daily written questions and one teacher led assessment to demonstrate the learning activities.</b>
<b>Standard: The Student Develops Respect for Social, Ethical, and Human Issues.</b>	<b>Activities: Students are taught and then demonstrate appropriate use of technology including: Internet Safety, Appropriate Search Engine Skills, and When Technology is Not Appropriate.</b>

**Typical Mission Rotation for Students:**

- Day One:** Students take a pre-test and complete an introductory activity to prepare students for the learning within the mission for the balance of the week. Students are assigned crew roles (commander, materials specialist, information specialist, and communication specialist) that they fulfill during the mission.
- Day Two:** Students expand the activities, answer questions based on the context of their reading, create a product or project utilizing the skills being taught so far.
- Day Three:** Similar to day two, students work together to continue the projects as well as answer more briefing and vocabulary questions.
- Day Four:** Students have a teacher-led assessment where they discuss with the teacher what they are learning in the mission
- Day Five:** Final day of the activity, students complete their final activity
- Day Six:** Student takes a post test and then prepares for the next mission.

## Grading Policy:

Grading Scale	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Grade Percentages/Weights	
Labs	25%
Projects	25%
Quizzes	25%
Participation	25%
Total	100%

**Individual Grade Policy:** While students work in groups, all grades are based on the individual students' effort and assignments turned in. Grades are calculated by taking the points the student earns and dividing those points by the total points possible thus calculating a percentage applied to the scale above.

**Group Grade Policy:** While students work together, their grades are individually assigned, there are no group grades given in this class.

## Student Expectations

### Absence Policy:

Students are expected to attend class daily. Then each day's activities are based on the work done in the previous day. When students are absent, they must come in before or after school to make up the missed work so they are able to continue progressing with the class. Students earn attendance points for each daily session they complete.

### Tardy Policy:

Students are expected to be in their chairs when the final bell rings. Students who are not seated and ready to work when the final bell rings, will be counted tardy to class. Each student is given one opportunity to be tardy. Two tardies will warrant lunch detention. Three tardies earns an after school detention. Four or more tardies will warrant a referral.

### Late Work Policy:

No late work is accepted in Technology. Students are given five to six days to complete five days worth of work. If a student is behind, he/she must come in before or after school to complete tasks. The system that manages the student activities cannot have students working simultaneously in two or more modules. Therefore, students have to have a module completed before the next module can be started. When a student does not complete work on time, it prevents an entire class from moving forward. Therefore, no late work is accepted.

### Plagiarism/Cheating Policy:

Students may work with their lab partner on all activities except the Post Test of each mission. A student who copy another student's work or uses any materials while taking the Post Test will receive a zero on the post test. If a student uses materials or copies from another student a second time, they will receive an F for the grading period and will be removed from the lab for the balance of the grading period.

**General Guidelines:** Student must arrive to class on time with a pencil and an agenda each day. Students may not chew gum, eat and food or candy, or have any drinks in class. If a student violates this rule, the student will receive a referral for lunch detention. If it occurs a second time, students will be removed from the lab for a mission.

Students may not bring cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic device to the class since they can interrupt the wireless network in place. Students who bring such devices to class will have them confiscated and the device will only be returned to the parent/guardian, not to the student. It is unfair for a student to bring a device to class that can potentially change the results or access another students needs so there is a zero-tolerance policy in place on these items.