

2024-2025
Agriscience
Course Syllabus

Ms. Courtade – Instructor

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Welcome

Welcome to Agriscience. This syllabus is a guidebook to your year at the Mecosta Osceola Career Center. **PLEASE KEEP THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS!** This will help you if you have any questions about the class, class policies, or school policies. You will be experiencing many new opportunities this year that will help you explore careers, enjoy new experiences, and meet new friends! Our class will focus on four areas. Classroom, laboratory, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experiences. This helps students to get a well-rounded education!



Course Syllabus - Agriscience

Mission:

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agricultural food, fiber and natural resources systems.

Prerequisite: - None - I Year Course - Grade Level 11-12

Course Description/Objectives: Agriscience covers a wide area of study. Units of instruction include twelve different areas:

Safety
Animal Anatomy and Physiology
Animal Genetics and Reproductions
Domestic Animal Production
Animal Health and Nutrition
Plant Anatomy and Physiology
Soils and Plant Nutrition
Plant Culture and Propagation
Natural Resources Systems
Environmental Services Systems
Agriculture Business and Marketing
Career Readiness and Leadership

Safety

Students will be instructed regarding the following:

Greenhouse Safety
Barn Safety
Animal Safety and Proper Handling
Biosecurity

Career Options

This class will offer training that can be used for many different career options. Some examples are as follows:

Arborist	Beekeeper
Botanist	Pet Groomer
Florist	Veterinarian
Gardener	Veterinary Technician
Horticulturist	Zookeeper
Landscaper	Zoologist
Nursery / Greenhouse Grower	Animal Services Worker
Animal Breeder	Wildlife Technician
Animal Caretaker	And Many More!
Animal Trainer	
Aquaculturist	

CTSO - FFA Membership

FFA is the youth organization for students enrolled in the Agriculture Education program. Because it is part of the total Agriculture Education program, it is also taught as part of the class to incorporate leadership skills and training. There are many activities throughout the year. All students are strongly encouraged to not only attend the required number of functions, but to be active in the FFA. Joining FFA allows the student to attend camps, conferences, conventions, contests, banquets, and many other activities. Every student is automatically a member of the FFA by enrolling in an Agriscience class. For more information about FFA, go to <https://www.ffa.org>
Chapter Number: MI0440

Mecosta-Osceola Career Center FFA activities include (but are not limited to)

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Activities
Chapter Meetings (monthly)	Chapter Meetings (monthly)	County Fair
Career Development Event Contests	Annual Awards Banquet (April)	Washington Leadership Conference
National FFA Convention (Indianapolis, IN)	Ag Skills Contests (MSU)	Ag Skills Contests (MSU)
Community Service Projects	State FFA Convention (MSU)	
Poultry Contest (Fowlerville, MI)	Regional Leadership Camp	
Farm Bureau Speak Ag MI	Rabbit Contest (Fowlerville, MI)	
Service Projects	Service Projects	

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)

The SAE is a very important part of the learning experience in agriculture education. A SAE is a project completed by the student which takes place outside of the classroom. Students will be required to keep records of their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Documentation will take place through The Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET). To access the online record go to <https://theaet.com/> Students will be graded periodically for their journals and reports in AET. SAE's must have an agricultural focus and come from one of the four different areas:

1. Entrepreneurship (ownership)
2. Placement
3. Research
4. Foundational

- Students are required to have a yearlong SAE. The student yearlong SAE can be **Entrepreneurship, Placement or Research. An end of the year report is due on April 30, 2025.**
- Students will also be required to have one **Foundational** SAE a semester. Reports for their foundational SAE will be due at the end of each semester.

Grading Procedures:

This course combines lecture, in-class exercises, hands-on activities, projects, Supervised Agricultural Experience projects, and career readiness. There will also be individual written assignments, group assignments and formal presentations by the students. The formula to determine each student's grade is calculated by 70% of the grade in coursework and 30% on career readiness.

Grading Scale

A	100 -93	C	76.99 – 73
A-	92.99 – 90	C-	72.99 - 70
B+	89.99 – 87	D+	69.99 – 67
B	86.99 – 83	D	66.99 – 63
B-	82.99 – 80	D-	62.99 – 60
C+	79.99 – 77	F	59.99 – 0

Career Readiness Rating Scale

Daily participation scores are based on how ready you are for employment. **Are you R.E.A.D.Y.?**

→ RESPONSIBILITY

- Are you dressed appropriately?
- Do you have your safety glasses?
- Are you swearing?
- Are you following the class rules?
- Are you being safe?
- Are you using tools/equipment properly?

→ EFFORT

- Are you working on class/lab worksheets?
- Are you completing work on time?

→ ATTITUDE

- Do you have a good attitude?
- Negative all the time?
- Are you following directions?

→ DEPENDABILITY

- Are you absent a lot?
- Do you prearrange or call in?

→ YOU

- Are you making sure YOU are a good employee (student)?
- Are YOU trying to participate in class/lab? Or do you copy off of other students and not do any work yourself?

*This grade will go in the Career Readiness category (30% of your grade)

Attendance Policy

Attendance is a MUST! You have to be here to complete the program, activities and work will NOT stop just because you aren't here! If you are going to be absent, you MUST call in! This is **MANDATORY!**

- You earn 5pts a day
- SR (School Related) absence, student gets 5pts
- Absent, communicated with teacher, 2pts per day

Tardy

A tardy is defined as not being in your seat at the start of class. For example, if you are not in your seat at 8:30 a.m. or 12:40 p.m. and attendance is taken, you are tardy.

Missing Assignments / Make Up Work

Missing assignments/make up work will be accepted until one week before grades are due. Once grades are submitted no missing assignment or make up work will be accepted. **After an absence it is the responsibility of the student to get make-up work from the teacher.**

Communication

Remind

To access class Remind please use the following codes:

AM: 2425agsc

PM: 2425agsci

Please remember when communicating to keep it professional and during appropriate times. Messages received after 8 p.m. and before 7 a.m. on weekdays and weekends will not be answered until an appropriate time.

Google Classroom:

Communication will take place through Google Classroom. It is your responsibility to check Google Classroom DAILY for assignments, announcements, and other important information.

Class Operations

Cell Phones

Cell Phones, Earbuds, Smart Watches, and Laser Pointers

Districtwide, students are prohibited from using or possessing active (i.e., turned on) electronic communication devices (Cell Phones) in restrooms, locker rooms, offices, and other locations where students and staff have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Separately, all students are prohibited from possessing or using laser pointers on school premises and at school-related activities without the express permission of school administration. Students may not use or possess active electronic communication devices.

1st Offense – Verbal/written warning

2nd Offense – Confiscation of cell-phone until the end of class or until reclaimed by parent/guardian depending on circumstances

3rd Offense- See Insubordination 2nd and 3rd offenses

Agriscience policy: All students will place their cell phone in the lock box on the chrome cart at the beginning of class. If you do not own a cell phone, please see your instructor. Earbuds and smart watches will not be allowed in class! Should a parent/guardian need to contact the student during class, they may contact the main office at the Mecosta Osceola Career Center.

Leaving The Room During Class Time

Whenever a student needs to leave the room (e.g. to use the bathroom) they are expected to first ask permission from the teacher, sign out on the form located by the door: enter the date, student's name, where they are going, and the time leaving. Upon return, enter the return time.

Animals

Animals are a part of our classroom and our curriculum. Always treat the animal with care and respect. Never take an animal out of its enclosure without permission. Animals will not be handled unless you have specific instructions from Ms. Courtade.

Food and Drink

Food and drink will be allowed in the classroom as long as the following guidelines are followed.

Failure to comply with the rules will result in a no food policy

- All wrappers, bottles, spills are cleaned up.
- It does not distract from the activity at hand.
- No food or drink is allowed when we are working in the lab, greenhouse, or barn.

Field Trips

Our class goes on many field trips. Students must adhere to the school dress code and dress appropriately for the field trip we are attending. Many trips will take place outdoors so please dress appropriately. Students must follow all school guidelines while on the field trip.

Start of Class

Students will need their binder, assigned Chromebook, put their cell phone in the lock box, and then head to their assigned seat.

End of Class

Clean-up will begin 5-10 mins before class ends. Chairs must be pushed in with students sitting or standing by their desk. No lining up by the door. PM session students will need to put their chairs on the desk for night cleaning.

Articulation

Michigan State University College Articulation Credits:

To earn six MSU articulation credits a student needs to earn their State FFA Degree and complete two years of Agriscience at the career center.

2nd Year Program Option:

This program is for students who demonstrate a high level of success during the first year in the AgriScience program, and who would like to further enhance their learning through a work based learning opportunity with local industry professionals. An emphasis is placed in real world work experience as well as certification opportunities. This opportunity is very independent and meant for students who have demonstrated the necessary skills to succeed and take initiative.

Rather than attending the Mecosta Osceola Career Center, students will be released to work at the specific job site 4 days a week. Students will report to the career center on Friday for instruction. Transportation is the student's responsibility to and from the work site each day. Students will be monitored and held accountable through the Work Based Learning Coordinator and the Agriscience Program.

Interested students will need to find an agriculture and natural resources placement and also meet the following criteria:

1. Attendance
 - Students will be required to maintain excellent attendance at their placement and career center.
 - Must attend the career center for mandatory meeting days.
 - No school suspensions
2. Performance Standards
 - Successful completion of both semesters
 - Dress and appearance appropriate for work site
 - Punctual
 - Completes class work at the career center
3. Attitude
 - Team work
 - Stays on task and demonstrates initiative
 - Practices safety requirements
 - Personally accountable for self, work site and classroom environment
4. Must have reliable transportation to and from the work site
5. Consequences for not maintaining criteria standards
 - Failure to maintain attendance, performance and attitude standards will result in reduction or termination of the student's work experience privileges.
 - Students are required to be at either the work site or career center for scheduled time periods (school breaks must be communicated to the employer).

Disclaimer: The Agriscience syllabus is subject to change. The instructor will notify the students of any changes in writing.

MOCC

Mecosta-Osceola Career Center

15830 190th Avenue

Big Rapids, MI 49307

Ph: (231)796-5805 Fx: (231)796-0262

Agriscience Program

Ms. Courtade

I, _____, have read and understand the syllabus for the Agriscience Program. I agree to abide by the program requirements.

Print Student Name

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date