

SCIENCE LABORATORY POLICY

Welcome to the Fox Lane High School Science Department! As you know, the hands-on nature of science is what makes these classes interesting and exciting. We challenge you to “do” science by conducting laboratory investigations. Our department believes that these experiences are essential to your growth and development as both a thinker and a citizen.

As it happens, the State of New York agrees! As a result, we are required to keep a record of your successfully completed laboratory reports during the year, and for six months after you complete a course. This requirement states that students must have successfully completed a **minimum** of “1200 minutes of laboratory experience with satisfactory written reports for each laboratory investigation.” This equates roughly to thirty lab periods, each lasting forty minutes. However, many labs require significantly more time, while others may require less time. In addition, it is likely that your teacher will require lab work well beyond this minimum. While it is our responsibility to provide the instruction and supervision during these experiences, it is ***your responsibility*** to complete these experiences successfully. We will know when you have successfully completed each experience by observing you during the labs, and by evaluating the written work that you turn in. **If you do not meet the lab requirement, you will not be able to take the Regents Exam.** Again, this is a State Education Department regulation.

The following are a few laboratory **headlines, guidelines, and deadlines**:

Regents Exam Requirement

As previously stated, failure to meet the lab requirement will prohibit you from taking the Regents Exam. The Regents Exam is **also** the final exam in this course, which counts for **20%** of your **final year average**.

Late Labs and the Late Lab Deadline

Labs are due at the beginning of class on the day designated by your teacher. Penalties for turning in late labs will be discussed by your teacher. The latest date a teacher may accept late lab reports is the Friday before Memorial Day. Labs previously due will NOT be accepted any later than this date.

Missed Labs

In general, labs will remain set-up for ONE WEEK, unless otherwise indicated by your teacher. It is YOUR responsibility to make up missed labs within this timeframe, barring extenuating circumstances (such as a prolonged illness). Failure to do so may result in a “zero” for that lab.

Notification of Lab Jeopardy

Students should always be aware of their lab requirement status by looking through their lab folders (kept IN the classroom, NEVER to leave). Parents/guardians will be notified on the third quarter report card if a student is in jeopardy of failing to meet the requirement.

Please read and sign the acknowledgement on the back and return it to your science teacher.

Student Acknowledgement

I, _____, have read the above laboratory requirements, and pledge to work to meet these requirements to the best of my ability. I understand that failure to meet the lab requirement will make me ineligible to earn Regents credit or take the Regents Exam, which is the final exam for this course.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I, _____, have read the above laboratory requirements, and understand that failure to meet the lab requirement will make my child ineligible to take the Regents Exam, which is the final exam for this course.

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Some ideas and suggestions for SCIENCE success:

- Attend class! Absence is often the biggest obstacle to success.
- Take advantage of after school extra-help and make-up time.
- Take advantage of the Academic Success Center.
- Review and/or re-write your notes daily. This will help identify questions/confusion.
- Sign-up for a FREE Honor Society tutor in the Science Department Office.
- Study with a friend from class.
- Make flashcards for vocabulary words in each unit.
- Begin to use the Review Book (if already purchased), or buy a review book!