

Welcome to Science!!

Dear Parent/Guardian:

My name is Dan Tenpas and I will be your child's Science instructor this coming term. I am extremely excited to be given the opportunity to teach your child at Beaver Dam High School and to give them the tools they need not only to do well in this particular course but more importantly life skills that may make them more successful in life after high school.

The main objective of this science course is to learn by doing. Your son or daughter may find this class more challenging than their previous science courses, so please encourage him/her to **ask for help**. More than likely, students will not master concepts the first time they are introduced. What is important is that they continue to work and ask questions that will allow me to reach them. One of my favorite quotes is from Michael Jordan when he said, "I've always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come." I firmly believe if your child puts the work in, they will do just fine in my class.

Though not all students will earn an A in this class, I do expect that all students will be challenged and put forth an honest effort. My job is to assist students in reaching for their goals, and I ask for your help in encouraging them. This may include asking them about their homework (Can they explain what we are studying to you?), providing them a quiet place to study without distractions, making sure they get enough rest to be alert and ready to learn, and ensuring your student has the required supplies for class. A great online resource that I encourage all students to use at home is <http://www.brightstorm.com/science/biology/>. This site contains a video library with every concept we discuss in biology along with other science courses.

The way students are assessed in this course may be different than what you are used to. Students are graded on their knowledge of the topics being discussed. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of each learning target and that will determine their grade. A learning target is basically a skill or a concept that the Wisconsin Department of Instruction has deemed important for every child to master by a specific age or grade level. At Beaver Dam High School, grades are based on Assessments. Both routine (30%) and summative (70%), which are 85% of your students grade, the other 15% is from the Cumulative final at the end of the term.

Students will also be given homework assignments, designed to give students the opportunity to practice the concepts discussed in class. Students are strongly encouraged to complete it to get the practice they need to demonstrate mastery of the concepts. Without this practice, the vast majority of students will struggle.

I will be available to help your child most days before school from 7:15 to 7:45, daily during my prep and most days after school from 3:05 until 4 pm. I will make every attempt to be available when any student needs help. Students should be sure to set up an appointment so I know they are coming and to make sure I do not have a meeting or other obligation.

If you have any further questions, or would like to discuss your child's progress at any point, please contact me at 885-7520, ext. 2185, or e-mail me at [tenpasd@bdusd.org](mailto:tenpasd@bdusd.org). I am looking forward to a positive and productive term!

Sincerely,  
Dan Tenpas

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I have received and read Mr. Tenpas' classroom policies.

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_

The best way to reach you is (include phone or email address please):

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Any questions/comments you may have at this time:

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