

HORTICULTURE 2025-2026

Instructor: Paul Besong **Office Hours:** 7:45 AM – 3:45 PM (or by appt.)
Phone: 324-4691 ext. 2311 **Office Location:** Lexington High School Rm. 311
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COURSE OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this class is to teach you how to grow a large variety of plants, both indoor and outdoors. Topics in this course include information on plant structure and function, plant growth, plant diversity, basic plant identification, gardening and landscaping.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- School issued iPad (THIS IS A MUST)
- A Folder just for science
- Pencil with an eraser
- Gloves
- Boats
- Text: Horticulture Today (Online book available-hard copies available for use in classroom only)

GOALS:

The student will:

- Gain an understanding of how plants grow
- Learn how to care for different species of plants
- Learn the complexities of growing plants in a greenhouse
- Visit at least two large professionally run greenhouses
- Learn how to care for plants outside
- Learn how to make money growing things
- Learn an appreciation for nature
- Learn the value of sweating

Learning Units

- Plant Parts and Functions
- Environmental Factors
- Plant Propagation
- Soil and growing medium requirements
- Insects and Pesticides
- Plant Diseases
- Water requirements
- Fertilizers
- Plant Taxonomy
- Making good money by growing plants

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance: Be at school. The more you miss the more you fall behind.
- Attention: Know what is going on. Use your listening skills. Important information is being discussed!
- Attitude: Have a positive attitude toward learning. Turn in your work on time!

CLASSROOM RULES

- Be safe.
- Be curious.
- Be respectful. To yourself, to others, to the classroom/materials.

EXPECTATIONS

- It is always okay to do your best and ask for help.
- It is always okay to be kind and helpful.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** It is **never** okay to be disruptive. Being disruptive means you are interfering with learning or being hurtful.
- Students will be held accountable for their actions. When those actions are disrespectful and/or disruptive to the learning environment, students will follow the process with the classroom teacher before they re-enter the learning community.
- Students who choose not to own their actions will be given time to think away from other students until they are ready to re-join the learning community.
- I don't know if it will not be used in the classroom. You can use: **May I please have more information?, may I have some time to think? Would you please repeat the question? May I ask someone for help?**
- **Students will not have their cell phones on their person or in their possession during class. All cell phones are expected to be kept in their backpack. Phones will be confiscated and sent to the office.**
- Eat Food and Drink before you come to class (*Water Only*)
 - Spit Gum out at the door before entering the classroom.

Safety:

- Horseplay in the greenhouse will not be tolerated and could easily result in removal from class. There are many ways to get seriously hurt, from electricity, to falling down, to getting your arm caught in the soil mixer.
- No one can afford an injury, so please honor this.
- Be prepared to get a little dirty and wet and get your **HANDS DIRTY!**
- On that note, wear what you don't mind getting a little dirt on. I will have some aprons available. You will not be able to get out of participating due to clothing issues.
- Restroom policy. Take care of matters before leaving the classroom to go to the greenhouse. Restroom "breaks" will not be granted. I need to see everyone at all times...in the greenhouse!
- No standing around, or trying to avoid work.
- Know this fact if you decide or hope to stay in this class.

- There is always something to do, and I am not going to be constantly prodding you. GREENHOUSE = WORK. Know and accept this upfront.
- No cell phones. The greenhouse seems to be a handy place to sneak a call or text in. Don't do it, or it's mine.
- Stay out of the storage area, unless you are assigned a task there.

GRADING

- Grades will be based on the district wide grade scale.
- Final Grade Break-down for each Quarter
- Homework: 15%
 - o Electronic copies will be used as much as possible
 - Guided Readings: Yes, you need to read. Reading is the best way to learn.
 - Homework Problems: This is like practice. To be successful on quizzes and tests you need to do the practice problems.
 - o It is your responsibility to check your answers on all homework assignments.
 - o Assignments submitted 2 days late will lose 50% credit. (weekend counts as 1 day)
- Labs/Quizzes: 35%
 - o Quizzes may or may not be announced
 - o On paper or online
 - o This category includes any lab activities
 - Labs submitted 2 days after due date will lose 50% credit
 - Quizzes taken more than 5 days after due date will lose 50% credit
- Tests: 50%
 - o Given at the end of each chapter
 - o Tests taken 5 days after due date will lose 50% credit
- Semester Tests: 10% of Final Semester Grade
 - o (Quarter 1 Grade: 45%, Quarter 2 Grade: 45%, Semester 1 Test 10%)
 - o (Quarter 2 Grade: 45%, Quarter 2 Grade: 45%, Semester 2 Test 10%)
- Special Considerations
 - o Daily assignments/labs due online BY MIDNIGHT (unless told otherwise)
 - o Any assignments done on paper MUST HAVE FULL NAME AND CLASS PERIOD in the top right corner
 - o You will have ONE WEEK to make up a missed lab, quiz or test. This will be done outside of regular class time. After 1 week you will lose 50% credit.

CHEATING/PLAIGIARISM

- o Anyone found cheating or plagiarizing work will be forced to follow the guidelines as written in the Student Code of Conduct. For a definition of cheating please refer to the code of conduct handout.

ABSENCES

- The students will be held accountable for all missed assignments, notes, etc. for any absence.

- o It is YOUR responsibility to communicate with me as soon as you return AND make a plan with me on how you will make-up for what you missed.
- o If you will be gone the next day, please make sure you talk to me verbally before or at the end of class or by email so you can get the materials you need to complete while you are gone. During class is not a good time to discuss missing work.
- o I will not hunt you down...be responsible.
- o Upon returning to class, you will have TWO days to complete and submit any work you missed (one 3 days for quizzes, labs, or tests)
- o You MUST add a comment when submitting late assignments as a reminder of when/why you were gone or else you will still lose credit for turning in the assignment late.
- Students that miss school because of a pre-excused reason need to notify the teacher BEFORE being gone.
 - o We will make a plan and you are expected to follow through with the plan.

SPECIAL NOTES

- 1) Cell phone use is strictly prohibited per school rules as stated in the handbook.
- 2) Tardy-you are considered tardy if you are not in your seat working on the Bell Ringer WHEN THE BELL RINGS. First tardy is a warning. Second and subsequent tardies will result in a 15-minute detention BEFORE school.
- 3) Students will not use the restroom during class. You have time to do this during your 4-minute passing period. I understand there are certain situations and emergencies-communicate with me and we will figure something out, which usually consists of making up time missed after school.
- 4) Head phones/air pods may be used on certain occasions with PERMISSION from me. DO NOT come into my room with head phones already in-they will be placed in my drawer and you can get them after school.
- 5) Keep your iPads closed until instructed to open them.
- 6) At the end of the class, you remain seated until the bell rings, no standing up.

Declaration of Accountability

Horticulture 2025-2026
Mr. Besong

By signing this paper, the student and parents/guardians agree to be held accountable for all the expectations and rules set forth in the syllabus for Mr. Besong's Horticulture class. Violations of rules will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

An electronic copy of the syllabus is available on Google Classroom. Please let me know if you have any questions!

COMPLETED BY STUDENT

Class Period : 6th

Name of Student: _____ (print)

Student: _____ Date: _____
Signature

COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

Name of Parent/Guardian _____ (print)

Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____
Signature