**Backyard Botany:**

**Course Description: .**5 credit, one trimester, elective science course

This course is designed for any student who is interested in backyard plants and landscapes. In a unique, outdoor setting we will focus on plant identification, landscape design, construction, and maintenance. Areas of emphasis will include: backyard habitats, water features, native plant selection and propagation, food gardens, soils, specialty gardens, beneficial insects, weed control, composting, and attracting birds and wildlife. You will also learn how to incorporate low water use designs and plants into your backyard habitats.

**Instructor:** Mr. Stacey

**Major Objectives:**

1. introduce students to hands on plant biology
2. introduce students to landscape design and xerioscaping
3. introduce students to the benefits of native species in the landscape

**Content Area:**

1. Plant identification
2. Landscape design
3. Soils, fertilizers and composting Pest and weed control
4. Plant propagation and seed collection
5. Food Gardens
6. Plant biology
7. Insect and Weed Control
8. Plant Diseases

**Text:**

No Text is provided. Students are required to keep a folder of class handouts and notes. A Class Website is available, and students are encouraged to frequently visit it for review and supplemental class information.

[www.mchsscience.weebly.com](http://www.mchsscience.weebly.com)

**Lab:**

The class will conduct hands on lab activities. Labs will include soil testing, seed collection and plant propagation.

**Evaluation:**

Class, group and individual projects, along with quizzes, homework and attendance/participation both in class and on field trips will determine the final grade.

**Course Syllabus and Time Line:** (Approximate)

#### Plant Identification: 4 weeks

1) ‘weeds’

2) wildflowers

3) trees and shrubs

**Landscaping: 2 Weeks**

1. Landscape features and design
2. water features, plants, and water quality
3. xerioscaping
4. attracting wildlife and beneficial insects
5. alternative energy in the landscape
6. specialty gardens

 **Food Gardens: 1 Week**

1) vegetable gardens

 2) fruit trees

 3) permaculture

#### Control of Weeds and Pests 1 Week

 1) mechanical

 2) chemical

 3) organic

#### Plant Propagation: 1 Week

1. methods
2. hydroponics
3. propagating native plants from seed

#### Soils, Fertilizers and Composting 1 Week

1. soil types, structure and testing
2. composting
3. fertilizers

#### Plant Biology: 1 Week

1. structure and function
2. reproduction
3. light, soil, nutrient and water needs

#### Plant Diseases: 1 week

1. Types
2. Treatments

**Attendance and Participation:**

Absences and tardies will be handled according to the Utah Compulsory Education Act outlined in the student handbook. The following differences are specific to this course.

1. Participation, which includes attendance, will be approximately 20% of the final grade in this class.

2. Participation points may also be lost if the student leaves a messy lab or seating area

**Special Regulations**

1. Late work will not be accepted unless due to an excused absence, in which case one day will be given for each day missed. It is the students obligation to find out what he/she missed when absent.

2. Students will be expected to attend any field trips that are offered. (If circumstances prevent you from

attending, please talk to your instructor before hand.)

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I have read and understand the above information. I also grant permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

to participate in Backyard Botany field trips and activities. (Please Print Name)

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Student Signature Date Parent / Guardian Signature Date