



South Campus
Pre-K – Grade 5
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(701) 893-3073

North Campus
Grades 6-12
124 North Terrace
Fargo, ND 58102
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Dear 2010-2011 Ninth Grade Parents,

In an effort to provide a more challenging science curriculum at Oak Grove, we have looked into offering a different option to our freshman. Since the state requirement for graduation is one physical science credit, we took a look at ninth grade students who may want to take a more challenging science track. To accomplish this goal, we will offer the following pilot project for further study.

Students who will be freshman during the 2010-11 school year, will be allowed to choose between taking our typical ninth grade physical science class or taking biology with the tenth grade students. With biology taken as a freshman, the physical science graduation requirement would have to be met by taking a chemistry, physics, or advance placement physics class as a sophomore, junior or senior. This would allow two more years to take some of the other more advanced physical or life science courses that are offered.

Some of our concern with this pilot program would be a student who chose to do biology as a freshmen and chemistry (for example) as a sophomore. That student might find that they are not adequately prepared to be successful at the level they would like to be in the chemistry class. This could result in a lower GPA for the student or in the extreme, that student may have to move back into a ninth grade physical science class. The point being made is that this decision is not to be taken lightly. It can have some long range consequences that we have experienced in the past when it comes to a student's GPA and possible college and scholarship opportunities.

Another concern would be the number of students who may choose to follow this more accelerated science track. We would not be able to make the final decision on our ability to schedule this until we would know the number of students signed up for each option.

Over the past three years we have offered anatomy and physiology class along with physics every other year. We will alternate the anatomy and physiology class (taught this year) with environmental science (offered next year). We will also alternate physics (taught this year) and advanced placement physics (offered next year), as well, every other year. Our plans are to continue to offer this combination of alternate classes for students who may choose or not choose to partake of the more challenging science track.

Please consider your choice carefully and help us to arrive at a number that we can study to make the best choice for our students.

Del Kessler
Superintendent