



## Core Content

### Washington State Standards

As stated the core of this course is directly drawn from the Washington State Essential Academic Learnings or EALRS. The language that you will encounter are standard, Grade Level Expectations (GLE), etc but it all can be simplified down to one thing..what defines a "common and basic education" as stated by Washington State Law.

Therefore the core content is:

	What it is..	What we Focus on	What we do
<b>EALR 1 Systems</b>	<b>...is a way of thinking that makes it possible to analyze and understand complex phenomena.</b>	<b>Inputs, Outputs, Boundaries &amp; Flows</b>	Look at a complex situation and see how it can be analyzed as a system with boundaries, inputs, outputs, and flows
<b>EALR 2 Inquiry</b>	<b>... is a process of asking and answering questions about the natural world that forms the bedrock of science.</b>	<b>Questioning and Investigating</b>	Investigate an answerable question through valid experimental techniques. Conclusions are based on evidence and are repeatable
<b>EALR 3 Application</b>	<b>...is about the interaction between science and technology, and how both can help solve real-world problems.</b>	<b>Science, Technology, and Problem Solving</b>	Work with other members of a team to apply the full process of technological design and relevant science concepts to solving a problem.
<b>EALR 4 Physical Science</b>	<b>Force and Motion</b>  <b>Matter: Properties and Change</b>  <b>Energy: Transfer, Transformation and Conservation</b>  <b>Earth and Space</b>  <b>Earth Systems, Structures, and Processes</b>  <b>Earth History</b>	Balanced and Unbalanced Forces  Newton's Laws  Atoms and Molecules  Interactions of Energy and Matter  Transformation and  Conservation of Energy  The Solar System  Cycles in Earth Systems  Evidence of Change  Evolution of the Earth	For each of these areas students are provided with basic background information that they can then use to explore through guided inquiry and student designed inquiry.

**However there is the FWPA Difference.**

The Federal Way Public Academy is a school of choice that purposefully provides instruction that moves beyond the common and basic education that is outlined above. Each teacher at the academy is the arbiter of what constitutes moving beyond the common and basic education. Generally each teacher uses basic expectations drawn from one grade level above the course that they are teaching. In the case of the classes taught by Mr Beard. Moving beyond basic and common education is defined as:

- Using standards from one grade level above the course being taught.
- Using standards as established by the College Board for Advanced Placement Courses.

Example of expectations drawn from the College Board:

- Students are to clearly demonstrate the ability to acquire data by experimentation and observation.
- Students are to clearly demonstrate The ability to record and manipulate data.
- Students are to clearly demonstrate The ability to communicate and share information.
- Students are to clearly demonstrate The ability to design experiments.
- Students are to clearly demonstrate The ability to use science as a process.
- Students are to clearly demonstrate The ability to evaluate a situation using data
- Students are to clearly demonstrate The ability to make inferences using data
- Students are to clearly demonstrate The ability to make predictions based on measurable scientific evidence
- Students are to clearly demonstrate The ability to apply of science to situations outside the classroom.
- Students are to clearly demonstrate he ability to conduct scientific research.

**Controversial Subjects**

**Teaching of HIV and Aids**

A three day unit on HIV/AIDS that is in concordance with the AIDS Omnibus Act(RCW 28A.30.070) is also a part of the course. The HIV/AIDS unit is drawn from the district approved KNOW curriculum. The KNOW curriculum is open for review at dates that the district will announce.

**Teaching of Mainstream Scientific Ideas that you may not agree with.**

We must all remember that we live in a diverse world with at 6 at least billion of points of view on every topic within the realm of human perception. This course is about the modern scientific point of view using material from modern science textbooks, state education standards, district standards and the teacher's knowledge for which he has been awarded multiple degrees and certifications for. Even if an scientific concept may at first appear to very different from ideas you already know, remember this... you are in a class to learn new ideas and to grow as a human being. No one is asking you to throw away anything, ideas and beliefs included. All you are being asked to do is to allow yourself to learn new ideas so that you can meet the requirements for EALR 4 "... prosper as citizens in a modern society." If you feel that you are going to have intellectual difficulty with any of the topics that are being taught, you are strongly encouraged to arrange a meeting with the principal and the teacher of the class in advance the lessons.

Instructional Methods

The instructor has designed the core of this course around a variety of classroom instructional methods.

**Classroom Instruction**

Classroom Instruction methods will include but are not limited to:

Socratic Seminar

Under this method students are required to take part in the active dialog of the seminar by asking questions, answering questions, providing alternate points of view and using he seminar experience to challenge their own ideas and more deeply understand the new ideas of the class.

Direct Instruction using a college lecture style

Direct Instruction via PowerPoint

Direction Instruction via Multimedia Modules

**Video Policy**

Any film or video used during the course will carry a G to PG-13 (General Audiences) rating. Films and videos are used in this course as curriculum enhancement and support.

Peer to Peer Instruction via Presentations

Peer to Peer Instruction via Cooperative Groups

Inquiry Skills via guided investigation experience

Inquiry Skills via student designed investigations

Computer Lab Instruction Using Internet Resources

**Homework: Devoting time to study**

The key college readiness skills that students must develop is devoting time to study the core content of a course outside of school. The assumption that learning only takes place when your are in a classroom is a fallacy, a false belief.

The core of homework will be:

- Instructional Reading in the textbook or assigned articles
- Independent Research
- Writing Papers and Reports that may be submitted electronically.

Homework

Assessment Methods

Everything that you are expected to learn will be formally tested using a variety for formative assessment methods.

In summary per semester there are:

- 18 Weekly Quizzes
- 3 project presentations
- 1 mid-term exam
- 1 Final Exam

Grading Methods & Credit Policies

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	Failure
100%	90%	89%	87%	80%	79%	77%	70%	69%	67%	60%	59% and Below
Student clearly and repeatedly demonstrates skills and knowledge from memory when prompted.	Student can clearly demonstrates skills and knowledge from with the aid of notes or other physical memory aides when prompted.	Student demonstrates skills and knowledge using memory aides when prompted.	Student can some times demonstrates skills and knowledge with the use of memory aides when prompted.	Student does not demonstrate skills and knowledge from memory or with memory aides when prompted.							
Student clearly exceeds basic standards	Student clearly is just a few steps beyond meting basic standards	Student clearly meets basic standards	Student can meet some of the basic standards and not others	Student clearly fails to meet basic standards							

**Assignment Grading**

Student includes any and all necessary references for the task using APA or MLA documentation style	10.00%
Student provides clear evidence of effort to complete the practice task.	10.00%
Student provides clear evidence of understanding and meeting the standards of the practice task.	70.00%
Student provides clear evidence of a correct understanding of the goal(s) of the task	10.00%

**Assessment Grading**

Student does not use notes or any other physical memory aide	10.00%
Students provides clear and correct responses to the question prompts.	89.00%
Student completes assessment takes by desired time	1.00%

**Mr. Beard's Law of Diminishing Returns**

The value of an assignment or assessment is at the maximum within the first of day after an assignment is due. Therefore the point value of all assignments and assessments will diminish by 1% per hour. The purpose of this policy is counteract the force of procrastination. Now, of course in concordance with district policy excused absences are given time to complete tasks. The policy for all Mr. Beard's courses is the amount of properly excused time= the amount of make up time that a student gets. There is no grace period or even consideration for unexcused absences.

Attendance Policies

**Attendance**

Attendance is vital to your success during this course. Mr. Beard understands that there is this "Law of Natural Consequences." Missing important activities and instruction for which you will be held accountable for is not a profitable idea.

**Tardiness: Basic Rule be in front of the room before Mr. Beard is...**

Please be ready to begin class on time. Tardy students are distracting to others. Sharpen your pencil, go to the restroom, conduct personal business, etc, before the the class begins. Too many tardy arrivals excused or unexcused are refereed to building principal.

Discipline Policies

**Behavioral Expectations**

All Federal Way School District and Federal Way Public Academy polices and procedures are upheld in Mr. Beard's Science classes. Please read and know the content of the *student handbook*. I require that all students are responsible and respectful of members of our classroom.

Health Polices

**Illness**

Please, Please, Please Do not come to school if you are sick, or have flu like symptoms. We can all stay healthier if we stay home and get well before returning to school. Mr. Beard will make academics available for you when you stay home sick, so that you will not be overwhelmed when you return to school. If you come to school and you appear to be ill Mr. Beard will refer you to the nurses office, maybe just to take a nap or have your temperature checked...and always WASH YOUR HANDS MULTIPLE TIMES EVERYDAY.

**Safety**

Safety is a priority in the science classroom. Safety infractions will not be tolerated. Any safety infraction will result in removal from laboratory and a loss of credit for the activity. Serious and repeated violations can result in referral to building administration.

Academic Honesty Policies

**Science Department Honesty Policy**

There is a clear expectation within the Federal Way Public Academy Science Department that all students will perform all assignments and assessments with honor and integrity. The work that is submitted for evaluation by the course teacher is expected to be original work created by the student under the guidance and direction of the course teacher.

Student Rights in the Classroom

A student's classroom rights are spelled out in the Federal Way School District Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and under the Front Cover.

