



Catholic Schools

“The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called “truth”.

Welcome to the new school year! I know that this year is an especially exciting one for the 8th graders. I am looking forward to a great year with the 8th grade and all the promise it holds.

Book: Science Explorer 2009, Prentice Hall

www.pearsonsuccessnet.com offers you the opportunity to look inside your child’s day-to-day learning. You will be amazed in the interactive learning experiences. Your child has his/her username and password.

Course Outline

- Unit 1: Living Things and Cells
- Unit 2: Animal Kingdom
- Unit 3: Human Biology and Health
- Unit 4: Ecology

Classroom Routines:

1. Tests every 5 to 10 days.
 2. Tests are cumulative. There is a semester final and end of year final.
 3. Learning Outcomes online.
 4. Note taking, labs, dissections, and journaling.
- The following is a list of the most common clue words and their meaning in exam questions to help you prepare for essay exams.

Clue Word Meaning

- Analyze To find the main ideas, how they are related and why they are important.
- Compare To show both the differences and the similarities.
- Contrast To compare by showing the differences.
- Criticize To give your judgment or reasoned opinion of something, showing its good and bad points. However, it is not necessary to attach.
- Define To give the formal meaning by distinguishing it from related terms. This is often a matter of giving a memorized definition.
- Describe To write a detailed account or verbal picture in a logical sequence or story form.
- Diagram To make a graph, chart or drawing. Be sure to label it and add a brief explanation if necessary.
- List To produce a list of words, sentences or comments. Same as enumerate.
- State To describe the main points in precise terms. Use brief, clear sentences. Omit details or examples.