**Science, Ethics and Contemporary Issues – Course Outline and Guidelines**

Welcome to Science, Ethics and Contemporary Issues. This is a course where we will spend time exploring and investigating current topics in science and the global economic, social and moral effect of scientific decisions. The course will involve discussions, research, debates, presentations and written assignments – all of which require an active participation on the part of the student. The curriculum is “live” and constantly evolving, so bring your ideas to class. Begin with an open mind and see where this exploration takes you – you may be surprised by what you learn.

“To be discoverers, get the words out of your eyes” - Wendell Johnson

Course Requirements:

* Notebook (spiral bound)
* USB – flash drive – is helpful

Course outline:

Building background and skills:

* What is meant by the ethics?
* What is the difference between opinion and fact?
* How do you evaluate a resource?
* How do you research a current topic?
* What is involved in presenting a supportive argument?
* How do you write based on facts?
* What is involved in an oral debate?

Putting these skills into practice

* Researching a current topic
* Separating fact from fiction
* Presenting a convincing argument verbally and in writing
* Debating an issue with success

Grades: Grades will be based on total points accumulated (rubrics will accompany large assignments) and will consist of:

* Class discussions (both online and in class)
* Computer blogs
* Research
* Debates
* Presentations
* Written assignments

The final for the course will be a debate that takes place in class.

**CELL PHONES WILL BE USED FOR EDCUCATIONAL PURPOSES BUT ARE ONLY ALLOWED WITH TEACHER PERMISSION (*AS PER THE STUDENT HANDBOOK*** *Electronic devices, iPods, cellular phones, electronic games, PDAs, are not permitted to be used in classrooms, locker rooms, bathrooms, or other academic areas of the school without prior permission of the teacher.*)