Roanoke Valley Governor’s School for Science and Technology  
**Mentorship**

Syllabus 2019-2020

Mrs. Melissa Fisher

1. **Course Information**
   1. **Course Description**

Mentorship provides students with the opportunity to carry out independent research projects in laboratories or worksites under the guidance of professionals from the local scientific and technological community. Each student is matched with a mentor based on mutual interests. Contributions from the scientific and technological community provide resources for student project work and to the school-based research lab program. All students will write a scientific paper using VJAS format describing their research projects.

* 1. **Gifted education strategies**

The application of science and technology in a specific profession will require the use of interdisciplinary skills. While the primary focus of the mentorship is research and observation, daily assignments during the mentorship may require such tasks as record keeping and communication with the public sector. The scope of the research project will determine the nature of math and science skills exercised to successfully complete data-driven research.

* 1. **Text, Printed Resources, and Media Resources**

RVGS Moodle

1. **Grading Policy**
   1. **Grading Scale**

100-90% **A**

89-80% **B**

79-70% **C**

69-60% **D**

59-0% **F**

* 1. **Types of Evaluations**
     1. Research Paper: You are expected to write a research paper that adheres to VJAS standards and style. Deadlines for the components of the VJAS paper will be distributed early in the first semester. A complete rough draft of your paper must appear with your project display at RVGS Project Forum. The rough draft will be edited and handed in for a final evaluation during the second semester. You are expected to write your paper using VJAS guidelines. These items must be completed before deadlines for applying to VJAS.
     2. Research Process: Time Management is included here. Effective management of your time before and during intersession for your project is important. You are expected to record important dates in your planner and appropriately use class time. Prearrange for any meetings with your mentor, or acquiring research literature, materials, or equipment you will need to be work to your full potential in class. To successfully complete your project, you will have to be independent, take the initiative, and of course, complete much of the work outside of class time. **In addition, during intersession, you will be expected to log at least 12.5 hours per week with your mentor**. Alternative arrangements may be made under certain circumstances. These arrangements must be documented in the student’s logbook and initialed by the instructor, the mentor, and the student. It is imperative that all ISEF forms be submitted on time. Maintaining your laboratory notebook, along with your journal entries, and time sheets, on a regular basis is extremely important. It is your log of all your research-related activities as well as a record of your mentorship observations and experiences.
     3. Homework: You are expected to complete all other assigned work related to the course competencies and enabling objectives. In the event that an assignment is unsatisfactory, you will be expected to rewrite the assignment until it is acceptable. Your summer assignment will be in this category. Revisions turned in after a mutually agreed upon submission date are subject to time management point deductions.

* + 1. Research Presentation: Your display board, oral presentation, along with your PowerPoint, and all items associated with Forum will be graded using rubrics that you will receive during the first semester. You must complete your PowerPoint using VJAS guidelines.
  1. **Semester Grade Determination**

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| --- | --- |
| **Category:** | **Weight: First Sem Second Sem** |
| Research Paper | 30% 30% |
| Homework | 30% 0% |
| Research Process | 40% 25% |
| Research Presentation | 45% |

* 1. **Final Grade Determination**
  + The final grade is the average of the 2 semester grades. Students who fail to maintain a B average or above will be subject to the RVGS probationary policy.

1. **Class Policies and Procedures**
   1. **Absences and tardies:** The policy in the RVGS student handbook will be followed. More information below.
   2. **Make-up Work:** Assignments will be announced in class and placed on the course calendar. It is the responsibility of the students to record homework in their planner and to complete the work as directed. In the event a student knows he/she is going to be absent, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor **BEFORE** the next elective session.
   3. **Late-work policy:** Late work will be accepted at the instructor’s discretion and be discounted at a rate determined by the instructor. All assignments must be submitted.
   4. **Cheating:** The policy in the RCPS student code of conduct will be followed.
   5. **Technology Policy:** The RCPS Acceptable Use Policy and the RVGS student handbook policy will be followed.
   6. **Extra help:** Students are expected to contact the teacher by email when extra help or guidance is needed.
   7. **Home Access Center:** Grades are available at all times through Synergy. When viewing your grades, understand that:
      1. A blank in the grade book means that the assignment has not yet been graded. Teachers will have all assignments graded within 5 school days of the due date (with the exception of very long assignments which will be graded within 10 school days). You may have a blank because the teacher has not graded the class set or because your assignment was turned in after the due date. Blanks do not count as zeros in your average.
      2. A zero in the grade book means that you have earned a zero on the assignment. Cases in which this might occur include submitting incorrect answers to an assignment or submitting an assignment past the due date.
      3. An excused (EX) in the grade book means that you are excused from the assignment without penalty.
   8. **Interim Reports:** A hard-copy of your current grade will be given to you to take home three times during each semester (see dates on the school calendar). The interim report is a snapshot of the current class average. Please feel free to discuss your report with your instructor.
   9. **Student Performance Strategy:** Interventions will be implemented at the teacher’s discretion or in the event that the student's grade falls below an 80.
   10. **General classroom procedures** 
       1. Assignments will be announced in class. It is the responsibility of the student to record homework in your planner and complete the work as directed. In the event a student is absent, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor BEFORE the next elective session to receive make-up work.
       2. Each student will be expected to meet established standards of conduct, appearance, and promptness while at the mentorship site and to provide their own transportation to and from its location.
       3. Each student will be required to have a parent/guardian form and any other necessary legal documents signed BEFORE the beginning of the mentorship experience on site.
       4. All Mentorship students are strongly encouraged to submit papers for or otherwise participate in other science fairs and VJAS. Research papers and PowerPoint presentations will be written according to VJAS standards.