

## Getting Ready for the 2026-27 School Year!

### LAB KITS

- **Before I can mail a kit to your home I will need to receive a signed copy of the 2-page *Parent Lab Kit Agreement/Liability Waiver* for each kit.** You can find these forms at [Lab Safety - Taylor Made Science](#). The form is set up as a fillable pdf so you should be able to complete it digitally. Then save a copy of the completed pdf and send that file as an attachment to an email to [cheryl@taylormadescience.com](mailto:cheryl@taylormadescience.com). Please send the file itself, not a link to where the file is saved. The form may not work on all devices. You can also print, sign, and scan a copy if needed. Either way, please make sure all fields are filled out as the forms cannot be accepted if something is missing. My insurance also requires that I have an actual copy on file, NOT a link to the file somewhere else.
- All lab kits will be mailed through USPS between July 15-20, and you will get a tracking number as soon as the kit is in the mail. If you will be gone in July after the 15th, please either have someone on standby to pick up the kit when it arrives or have the post office hold your mail until you get home. Because of the number of kits and the amount of space they take up in my home I cannot hold kits and mail at different times in the summer to accommodate vacations, etc. I will mail kits early for military addresses and for those who live overseas but will be visiting the US over the summer. Let me know ASAP if you have a special circumstance, other than vacation.
- There will be a few household supplies needed for lab that won't be included in the lab kit. These may be things that everyone has around the house, things that can't be mailed, or perishable items that can't be packed in the lab kit ahead of time. A list of these items will be posted in the syllabus section of Canvas later in the summer so that you will know ahead of time when additional items will be needed.
- Due to the issues with mailing thermometers, they will NOT be included in the lab kits this year. Please have a Celsius thermometer available for your student to use this school year if it's on the household supply list. A digital "meat thermometer" works very well, but a regular alcohol in glass is also fine.

### TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

Your student is taking an online class and this comes with some technology needs that are absolutely necessary for your child to be able to participate and be successful in the class. Please take time over the summer to make sure they are set up and ready to go when classes start in August. Here is a list of technology needs for the class:

- **Internet** – a reliable, and relatively fast internet connection is needed
- **Computer** - Students must have a working camera, microphone, and speakers. Taking an online class with nothing but a phone or small tablet is very hard for the student and usually results in them missing out on much of what's going on during class. Also, please make sure your student knows that they will be expected to turn their cameras on and use their microphones to participate in class. This allows students to get to know each other and adds the "social" element to the class that online classes are often missing.
- **Printer** - Students will usually need to print material each week. Please make sure that students have access to a working printer (with ink and paper) throughout the school year.
- **Scanner** - Students will need to scan much of their work and submit it as **one pdf per assignment** through Canvas. The best and easiest option to accomplish this weekly task is with an actual document scanner. There are some phone apps that allow you to take pictures of pages and save them together as one pdf. However, most students have trouble figuring out how to take pictures that are good enough to turn in as completed schoolwork. If you decide to go the phone app route, please work with your child to make sure they can take reliable pictures of each page so that images are centered (not skewed at an angle), well lit (not dark or with shadows of them taking the pictures), cropped to only show the page (no borders of the kitchen table, etc.), and clearly focused so that all written work is large and readable. Students will also only be able to submit one pdf per assignment, so they will need to be able to combine multiple pages into one pdf for submission. Finally, the files need to be on the smaller size so they don't use up all their storage space before the end of the year. They usually means being able to change the scanner settings, and not all phone scanner apps will allow settings adjustments.

- **Google account** – All students will be completing some of their work by editing google documents. Students will need to be able to save a google doc to their device, work with it, and resave to their device. If your student doesn't already have a google account, please set them up with a free account over the summer. Once they submit the assignments to Canvas they can delete their copy, so they don't need a large amount of storage space.

## **QUIET WORKSPACE**

Students need a **quiet** place to work when in class. This is the one most common issue that causes students not to learn in an online class. If there is too much activity and noise going on around them students are extremely distracted and not able to focus on and participate fully in the class. (It is also distracting to other students in the class!) Please find a quiet place to set up your student each week for class so they will be able to turn on their microphones and participate without distracting background noise.

## **TEXTBOOK AND OTHER SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

All students will need a textbook. A used copy works just fine and they can usually be purchased at very reasonable prices through Amazon or Textbooks.com. Sometimes the shipping can be a bit slow, so ***please take care of getting the textbook as soon as possible***. Students will need the textbook before classes start. You can find a list of other needed school supplies for each class on the website. Those can usually be picked up at local stores, so are not as time sensitive as ordering the textbook. You can find a list of all the textbooks on the website, complete with a picture of the front cover and the ISBN. Look under the Resources tab in the top menu. [Textbooks/Supplies - Taylor Made Science](#)

## **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

During July, the new online classes will be set up for next year. At the beginning of August, I'll send instructions on how to set up your student in the class. All student correspondence will go through the learning management system (Google Classroom) so it's important the student account is set up with an email address that the student checks regularly. We did just get word that the Canvas version for independent teachers will be discontinued, so we will definitely be moving to Google Classroom this coming school year.

## **FIRST HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

At the beginning of August, I will email your student additional class information through the learning management system. Most classes have a "summer homework assignment" that must be completed before the first class day. This assignment gives students background material for the first week's topic, so they are ready to start the new school year. Students must check their email regularly, beginning in August. Class emails will come through LMS, so they must have their learning management system accounts setup in order to receive those emails!

## **ORIENTATION**

Once your child has their online LMS account set up, they will find several videos posted that will explain things like "how to use Goggle Classroom" and "how to edit a goggle doc," etc. Please encourage them to watch those videos, even if they have already been in a class with me. With the LMS move there will be a lot of new info!

## **TUITION PAYMENTS**

You will receive a Square invoice 10 days before tuition due dates based on the selection you chose at registration (four installments vs two semester payments). Due dates for the 2025-26 school year are:

Installments (Aug 21, Oct 16, Jan 11, March 20) – Semester (Aug 21, Jan 11)

Tuition must be up-to-date for students to attend Zoom classes or access their Google Classroom account.