

BIOLOGY SYLLABUS 2017-2018

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Office Hours: Before School and 3rd Hour

Course Description:

This course is designed for those students who desire a thorough background in basic biology and a strong basis for further science study. The course of study in Biology includes all the major themes essential to understanding life. This is often achieved through problem solving, laboratory experiences, and group activities. The text material provides the factual foundation necessary to understanding the principals of life discussed in the course.

Standards:

The content of the course is designed to meet the following Next Generation Science Standards:
HS-LS1 Structure and Function
HS-LS1/2 Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems
HS-LS3 Inheritance and Variation of Traits
HS-LS4 Natural Selection and Evolution

Additional information on the standards is available at <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>

Instructional Strategies/Assessments:

A wide range of instructional strategies will be used in the course. At times, students will be asked to complete activities with a partner or in small groups. Each student is expected to fully participate in all activities. Students will be expected to individually complete and turn in any assignments accompanying an activity, even group activities, unless specified by the teacher.

Assignments are a vital part of this class. Assignments are due at the beginning of the next class unless otherwise specified. Students who consistently complete in-class assignments and homework will do well in the course overall. Assignments are mainly for practice but will be graded periodically.

Short quizzes will be given periodically to check understanding. Quizzes may be given without prior notice.

After each major unit, not necessarily after each chapter, students will complete a written test. Whenever possible units will be color coded (i.e. Unit 1 pink, Unit 2 green...). Tests will be announced several days in advance. At times, students will complete a project instead of a written test. Grading rubrics will be supplied for all projects at the time they are assigned.

At the end of each semester, a final assessment will be given. The final assessment will not exceed 10% of the total grade for the semester.

Grading Plan:

The standard grade scale will be used. Grades will NOT be rounded; thus, a 93.00% is required for an A and so on.

Materials/Resources:

The textbook for this course is *Biology* by Prentice Hall. Students are expected to bring their textbook to class each day.

Students are also expected to bring a notebook or notebook paper, pen/pencil and their student planner to class every day.

As this class utilizes many handouts, a folder or binder is also encouraged. Students will have the option of using a hanging file folder which remains in the classroom. The use of the hanging file is not mandatory but is encouraged.

Whenever possible PowerPoints, notes sheets, assignments and other resources will be available via Canvas. Students may use this as a resource if they misplace materials, forget to bring materials home to complete an assignment or are absent.

Absences/Late Work:

Students who are absent are responsible for obtaining any missed work. Assignments will often be available via Canvas. Students who miss a lab will need to make arrangements with the teacher to complete the lab during their own time. Quizzes and tests will also need to be completed during the student's own time.

Absent or late work may be turned in for credit according to following deadlines. Failure to make-up work before these deadlines will result in a zero for the assignment, lab, quiz, test or project.

*Assignments/Labs: Must be turned in by the scheduled class test date or by the project due date for the unit the assignment/lab corresponds to.

*Quizzes: Must be completed by the scheduled class test date or by the project due date for the unit the quiz corresponds to.

*Tests: Must be completed by the next scheduled class test date or by the project due date for the unit immediately following the test.

*Projects: NO late projects will be accepted past the assigned due date. Students absent the day the project is due must turn in the project the next time they report to class.

Academic/Behavioral Expectations:

General: Rules found in the student planner will be followed. Please remember:

*Water only in the classroom. Please keep food and beverages in poolside or the cafeteria.

*Students must request permission to leave the room by presenting their planner to the teacher for the completion of a pass.

*Dress appropriately for class-no alcohol or tobacco advertisements, no immodest dress.

Safety Rules: Students failing to follow defined safety guidelines will be asked to leave the classroom and will be referred to administration.

Tardies: Students are considered tardy if they are not in the room by the time the bell stops ringing. Students with an approved tardy must present a pass to the teacher. Students without a pass must sign-in on the tardy sheet located near the door.

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices are to be silenced and put away during class time unless specified by the teacher. Earphones should also be put away during direct instruction. The teacher is not responsible for damage or theft of any electronic device or accessory brought into the classroom by the student.

Cheating: Refer to pages 32-33 of the student planner regarding plagiarism. For a first offense, the student will receive a zero on the related assignment, lab, test or project. Upon the second offense, the student will also be referred to administration in addition to receiving a zero on the related assignment, lab, test or project. Students knowingly allowing other students to copy their work or ideas will also receive a zero for the assignment, lab, test or project.

Communication Plan:

Announcements for class will be made verbally and posted on the board when applicable.

Grades will be entered into PowerSchool approximately once per week. Mondays are usually good days to check what has been added from the previous week.

Please detach and complete the section below to confirm you have received and read the class syllabus. Return the completed section to Mrs. Clasen.

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Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____