

## **PRACTICAL BIOLOGY SYLLABUS 2017-2018**

Ms. Hannah Koerperich  
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Room: L008 Phone:  
Office Hours: Before School and 2nd Hour

Email is the best method to contact me as I switch classrooms throughout the day. I strongly encourage students to come in for help as needed. I am available before and after school as arranged by the students. I am also available during study hall. Please do not hesitate to come in for extra help.

### **Course Description:**

This course will provide students with the skills and opportunities they need to read, write, think, and apply science in their everyday lives. This is often achieved through problem solving, laboratory experiences, and group activities. The text material provides the factual foundation necessary to understanding the principles of life discussed in the course.

Alignment to the Iowa Core Science Standards: Practical Biology aligns with the Iowa Science Standards and includes instruction in the following standards: HS-LS1 From

**Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes and HS-LS3 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits. In Addition, it includes concepts in HS-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics and HS-LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity.**

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 papers will be color coded (ie. notes pink, labs 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.

*Your grade will be based on the following areas:*

Daily Assignments, Labs and Projects, Assessments

93-100% A	72-76% C
90-92% A-	70-71% C-
87-89 % B+	67-69% D+
82-87% B	62-66% D
80-81% B-	60-61% D-
77-79% C+	0-59% F

### **Extra credit**

No extra credit will be given in correspondence to the high school grading policy.

### **Materials/Resources:**

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 upon request via email. Students may use this as a resource if they misplace materials, forget to bring materials home to complete an assignment or are absent. Canvas may become available during the course of the year as a location to find materials.

### **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:**

**Class Guidelines in addition to the PRIDE way**

- 1. Respect yourself and your future.**
- 2. Respect your fellow students and their right to learn.**
- 3. Respect your teacher.**
- 4. Respect your school's property and community.**

**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 two feet 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, out of sight during class time unless specified by the teacher. I will be using the "red light, green light" system put into place by the school to communicate when technology will be used in class. 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.

***Media:***

Because of today's world and the power of different media outlets, I will be sharing photos and information about what is happening in our classroom. One example of a media outlet I use would be our class twitter page (@MsKoerperich). If you do NOT want to be in these pictures or posts of any kind, PLEASE let me know by indicating on the parent return form!

***Cheating:*** 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 at least once per week. Feel free to contact me, email is the best method ([hkoerperich@dbqschools.org](mailto:hkoerperich@dbqschools.org)).

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian:

Please read through the course syllabus and discuss it with your student. I will make every effort to keep the PowerSchool as up to date as possible so that you can check on your student's progress. Due to the time required for grading some of the larger projects this may not always be possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding your student. I can also be reached by email at [hkoerperich@dbqschools.org](mailto:hkoerperich@dbqschools.org). Please sign the sheet below and provide the number and email you can be reached at if needed.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Koerperich

Cut here and return signed below.

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This document must be signed and returned by \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

As a student of Ms. Koerperich's biology class, I have read and understand the course syllabus. In order to be successful, I will need to keep up with my assignments, ask for help when needed, follow device expectations, and have a positive attitude.

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent/guardian of the student listed above, I have discussed the course syllabus with him/her. If I have question regarding the class I will contact Ms. Koerperich by email or phone.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Questions or Concerns:

Best form of communication if not email:

I would NOT like to be ANY photos that may be posted/ submitted surrounding class projects/ activities.