

## **What Students Can Expect From This Course**

### **Course Description:**

Biology is the study of living organisms. This course is designed to help the student better understand the relationships between organisms and their environment. Topics covered in this college preparatory biology course include: the nature of science by investigation and experimentation, the classification and characteristics of living things, biochemistry and energetics, cell structure and function, evolution, Mendelian and molecular genetics, plant and animal system, and ecology. An inquiry-based method of learning is used as well as reading, note taking (from lectures and book), lab experiments, and group and class discussions.

### **Expected School-wide Learning Results:**

1. **CRITICAL THINKERS:** Students will be able to make scientific decisions based on valid reasoning and data. For example, the student will decide which of two hypotheses is more valid based on the results of an experiment they perform.
2. **PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS:** Students will be able to evaluate data, ask good questions, use their research skills and the scientific method to analyze results, then write lab reports. Students will also design their own experiments to solve lab problems or extend the previous lab experiments.
3. **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS:** Students will be able to communicate an idea or a scientific rationale to others, in written or spoken form. For example, the student will be expected to make oral presentations, and write detailed lab reports.
4. **DECISION MAKING SKILLS:** Students will develop and demonstrate personal character and responsibility by always showing respect to other people, their peers, school and student property, as well as their opinions and beliefs.

### **Assessment and Grading:**

1. **GRADING:** Grades will be determined at the end of each grading period based upon a weighted percentage of the points possible. Below is the District's suggested scale most teachers\* use.

A = 100%-90%  
B = 89%-80%

C = 79%-70%  
D = 69%-60%

F = 59% and below

2. **EVALUATION: \*\***

30%: Tests, (unit/chapter), Quizzes  
25%: Lab reports, Presentations  
25%: Homework/classwork  
20%: Semester Exam and Year end projects

\*/\*\*(All percentages are an approximation and may vary with individual teachers)

(**SEMESTER GRADE:** This grade is made up of two quarter grades. Each quarter represents 40% of the total semester grade. The two quarters combined make up 80% and the semester exam makes up the remaining 20% of the transcript grade.

3. **PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS:**

\*Students are expected to participate in class discussions and all laboratory experiments.

\*Students are expected to come to class prepared daily for the day's topic of work: lecture, class discussions, tests, quizzes, or a lab experiment.

\*If a student keeps an organized binder, takes reading and lecture notes, completes daily assignments, hands in assigned work on time, and studies for tests, an above average grade can be expected. This is because the student will have learned the material expected and earned the grade.

\*I expect students to maintain a high level of honesty and integrity in my classes. If there is a problem with someone (social or otherwise) please come to me first. Your confidence will be maintained, and the problem or conflict will be resolved.

\*I believe each student is capable of earning the grade they expect IF they follow the expectations and do the work assigned and hand the work in on time.

## What Is Expected From the Student

### Daily Assignments:

\*THERE WILL BE HOMEWORK OF SOME TYPE EACH NIGHT (i.e., 5 days of the week)

Students are expected to study biology 20-45 minutes nightly. This may include reading, taking notes, worksheets, lab reports, and / or reviewing for a test.

**Attendance:** We follow the district's attendance policy. You will be tardy if you are not IN your seat at the bell. Students may receive a failing grade in the class if they have accumulated 15 or more 'UNEXCUSED' absences.

### Late work or Make-up Work:

1. Assignments (i.e. homework, lab reports, etc.) will be due on the teacher's specified day. Late work will be penalized, unless students who have excused absences have cleared their late work with the teacher on the day of their return.
2. Make-up exams (for students with an excused absence only) will be given on an assigned day, at the discretion of the teacher. It is YOUR responsibility to be available at the time the exam is given. It will not be given during class time. Make-up exams may not be the same as the exam you missed and may be more difficult. If you know ahead of time that you are going to be absent on a test day then you are responsible for telling the teacher AHEAD of time not after.
3. Student should NOT miss lab days (Wednesday or Thursday). Lab experiments take time to set up and to do, therefore if you are absent for a lab even if it is excused you may not be able to make it up. If it is an excused absence due to sickness then another assignment will be given that is related. If you have a doctor or dentist appointments then change it. These appointments are made months in advance and you know your schedule. They are not considered excused absences.

### Classroom Rules / Expectations:

1. Each student must maintain and bring to class daily, a biology binder for notes etc.. Dividers will be needed for all class notes, handouts, homework assignments, tests, labs, etc. and must be kept NEATLY in this binder. Your homework grade depends on it!
2. Each student must maintain the daily assignments in their daily agenda/planners (provided by the school/PTSA).
3. Each student is responsible for finding out what he /she missed during an excused absence from the teacher or a fellow student from the class. Completion of work is due in the number of days missed, unless the assignment was made a week in advance (like tests, then they will be given on the day you return to class). Homework assignments can also be found on my school website.
4. There is a "Zero Tolerance" for cheating of any kind. Any "cheating" as defined by the district in the student handbook, will result in zero points for the assignment. All students involved will suffer the consequences, and parents will be called and administrators notified. The incident will be placed in your discipline 'Cum-' folder and may eventually be noted on your transcript if it occurs a second time.
5. Please be careful with all laboratory equipment and class materials (including your textbook). If you are careless with the equipment then the following rule applies: "You break it ... You buy it!"
6. Be sure to READ the "Classroom Behavior /Student Expectation" information given and discussed in your Student Handbook. Compliance with all school rules is expected.
7. There will be **NO EATING, NO DRINKING, and NO GUM CHEWING** allowed in class. Dispose of any food, drinks, and gum outside or there will be consequences according to the teacher's classroom behavior rules.
8. Take care of all restroom/bathroom needs before class; otherwise you will be charged a tardy.
9. Shoes are not a clothing accessory. Wearing shoes in this classroom is mandatory (it is actually a Federal Law). **HOWEVER**, sunglasses, hats or hoods (head gear) are accessory items and are NOT to be worn during class. Closed-toed shoes are to be worn on lab days for safety reasons by law.
10. No selling of school fund-raiser items will be allowed during class time.
11. Be responsible for keeping your work area clean. If you find or create a mess at your desk (or write on it) or in lab areas, clean and straighten it completely before you leave. Lab equipment given to you at the start of an activity is clean, it is expected to be returned in the same way.
12. Always demonstrate respect for your classmates, teacher and the classroom animals. Our classroom is a place where people work together towards a common goal in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. As young adults, you know what behaviors are appropriate in such a setting. Listen to each other carefully and speak when it is your turn.

\*\*\*REMEMBER Student grades are **EARNED not given!**\*\*\*

### NEED HELP???

I assess students with fairness and impartiality and I use the district's SIS-abi system for computing the grades and can be checked bi-weekly for updates. Students and parents with concerns about their grades should feel free to contact me outside of class time to set an appointment to discuss the issue. If you have any problems or questions, please come in and see me in room 707 of the science building. I am usually available during Tutorial on Tuesdays and by appointment at lunch.

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