



2018--2019 COURSE SYLLABUS

BIOLOGY – LIFE SCIENCE

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Room: B13

COURSE FOCUS: This is a course that is required for graduation from high school.

Biology: "bio-" = life and "-ology" = study of -- In other words, biology is a branch of knowledge that deals with living organisms and vital processes. Themes that we will be studying in this course include scientific skills, the nature of life, ecology, ecosystems, biospheres, cell structure and function, photosynthesis and genetics. Biology is an exciting and rapidly growing field of study. If at any time you have any questions, concerns or just plain curiosities, please do not hesitate to ask. I hope you are up for a challenge, because this class will not be easy. You will be pushed to excel and held accountable for your actions (or lack thereof). I will do my best to keep you challenged; it is up to you to keep your grades up by giving this course your best effort.

COURSE GOALS:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand scientific procedure
- Identify the levels of organization that ecologists study and describe the methods used
- Trace the flow of energy through living systems and evaluate the efficiency of energy transfer among organisms in an ecosystem
- Identify the causes of climate and explain how the Earth's temperature range is maintained and/or changed over time.
- List the characteristics used to describe a population and differentiate between exponential and logistic growth.
- Describe human activities that can affect the biosphere and how human activities affect the land, air, and water resources
- Explain cell theory, basic cell structure, describe prokaryotes and eukaryotes and describe the main functions of individual parts of cells.
- Explain photosynthesis and the role of cellular activity in plants.
- Explain the principle of dominance according to Mendel's work with inheritance in peas.

REQUIREMENTS:

Textbook(s): *Biology* – Prentice Hall & possibly *Biology* AGS publishing (supplemental)

GRADING POLICY:

I will utilize Infinite campus to update your grades online on a regular basis, however it is your responsibility to retain all returned work. Only by keeping your returned work can unintentional mistakes be corrected. You will have a binder to keep work in. I highly suggest you purchase some chapter dividers so keep work separated for the Mid-Term and Final Tests.



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Letter grades will be assigned according to the following cut-offs: A= 100-90% B= 89-80%, C= 79-70%, D = 69-60% and F = 59% or below

Participation/Effort, Interactive Notebook, LABS	30%
Quizzes	20%
Tests	20%
Labs	30%

ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED IN PARTICIPATION & EFFORT GRADE

Interactive Journal: (25 points each week)

This will be done throughout the semester. You are strongly encouraged to keep up with the daily use of this as catching up later will be very difficult if you slack off. You will be given pages to complete on one side and you will record notes on the other side. This will be explained in detail at the beginning of the school year.

Lab Reports: (50 points each)

Labs will be completed during this course. You are expected to attend school during lab days, as labs cannot be made up. All lab procedures are to be followed at all times or you will be removed from the lab and will receive a zero for the lab.

Project: (50 individual + 50 group points for a total of 100 points possible)

During the end of each semester, you and a small group (3-4 students) will do a science project, which should be unique and creative. This is to 'show off' the scientific skills you have learned during the semester. This will count as a portion of your Mid-Term & Final. You will need to prepare for this way in advance to be able to have it complete by the semester's end. Specific instructions as to what to include in the project will be provided to you well in advance and will require your parents signature so they know you have a project due.

Passes: (unused passes = 5 points each at the end of each quarter)

You will have five (5) passes to leave the room any reason per quarter. Should you get "caught" doing things you should not be doing while using a pass, all passes will be forfeit and you will have to wait until the next quarter to try again. If you lose your passes, you will not have the ability to leave during class without having Ms. Sara walk you to where you are going. Additionally, you may use ONE pass per quarter as a "day off" however, you will still be responsible for the work you miss while taking you "day off" pass. **Bonus!!** Any passes you have left at the end of the semester will be counted for extra points in the Participation/Effort & Interactive Notebook part of the total grade. They are worth 5 points each!

Cell Phones:

There will be times when you will be using your cell phone in class HOWEVER... for the majority of the time, you will be asked to keep your cell phones off your desk/table tops at all times. Should you have your phone out when you are not supposed to be using it, you will be asked to give it to the teacher or paraprofessional for the remainder of the period. We will ask one time only. If you refuse to give the phone up, you will receive a referral for having your phone out as well as refusing to follow directions and refusing to comply with an adult's request during class. **CELL PHONES ARE NEVER TO BE OUT DURING LABS!! Should you have your cell phone out during a lab, you will be removed from the lab and will have to do it over on your own time by appointment with the teacher.**



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GUM IS NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS AT ALL EVER!! If you must have something in your mouth, you can ASK FOR PERMISSION to suck on a jolly rancher or lifesaver – Gum chewing is not allowed per the school site rules.

Spinners and other “toys” are not permitted in class unless a case manager prescribes it as an IEP related accommodation. I do have access to your IEP’s so please do not try to “play me” on this.

Absence/Make-up Policy:

- It is **your responsibility** to get make-up work. It is also your responsibility to turn in any work that was collected while you were gone. You must make up any work missed due to an excused absence within three days of returning to school. If you miss a test, you must make up the test after school within one or two days. If you are absent the day of a review for the test you are still expected to take the test the day you return to school. Check with another student to see if you can copy their notes, and obtain the necessary handouts from me.
- You are responsible for scheduling time to make-up quizzes and tests A.S.A.P. – within one or two days, if possible.
- You can schedule tutoring time with me before or after school, if necessary.
- No make-up work will be allowed for unverified absences or suspensions.
- Due to the inherent complex nature of setting up and cleaning up laboratories, missed labs will not be allowed to be made up.