

Biology Course Information

Teacher:	Classroom:
email:	Office Hours:

Advanced Biology: Course Overview:

Biology is the science of life. If you have ever wondered about how a cheetah can run so fast, or why you get a fever when you're infected with a virus, or why you shiver on a cold day, or why the dinosaurs became extinct, then you've already done some biological thinking.

The purpose of this course is to teach you how to use biology to understand the living world—to understand 1) what kinds of questions biologists ask, 2) how they go about finding answers, and 3) some of the most important things they've figured out. As we do this, you'll come to understand life in a way that opens your eyes to how incredible living things are.

While Biology is full of amazing, mind-blowing facts and ideas, the best part of any science is doing it: asking your own questions, and setting up experiments to answer them. We'll start with our first experiment today.

What you can expect from me:

- 1) I will show up prepared for class, ready to teach.
- 2) I will plan a variety of activities during the year, including lecture, labs, group work, class discussions, demonstrations, reading, and hands-on activities.
- 3) I will act to provide a safe learning environment for all students, regardless of race, sex, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- 4) If you ask for help, I will give it.
- 5) I'm always interested in improving my teaching. If you provide me with constructive criticism, I will listen, and not hold it against you.

What I expect from you:

You're going to act in a way that supports your right to learn, others' right to learn, and my right to teach. That means following FOUR KEY RULES

1. Be Respectful	2. Focus on safety	3. Pay attention	4. Try your best
-------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

What you'll learn in this course:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Scientific Method and doing biology 2) Key Course Themes/Evolution 3) The molecules of life | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Cell structure and function 5) Enzymes 6) Cell Division 7) DNA and molecular genetics 8) Meiosis and Genetics | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9) Energy: Respiration and Photosynthesis 10) Ecology 11) Evolution 12) Human Body Systems |
|--|--|---|

What you need for tomorrow:

1. A three-ring binder. You can leave it in class on the bookshelf in back. Put your name on the binding.
2. A folder so you can take work home for homework.
3. Completed parent/guardian contact sheet.

Things to do at the start of class:

1. Look on the counter to see if there are any handouts.
2. Take your seat, open your 3-ring binder, and begin working on the daily *Catalyst*, your starting activity.
3. Turn your phone off, and put it away
4. Place backpacks under the table.

Consequences for talking/disruption/etc:

1. **1st time:** Verbal reminder. **2nd time:** Parent contact. **3rd time:** Involvement with the school's discipline system.
2. Cell phones or other devices that are out or heard will be confiscated and returned at the teacher's convenience.

Leaving class

In about two weeks, you'll receive a sheet with four passes. If you need to leave class, you hand in a pass. If you hold onto these until the end of the semester, you can redeem them for extra credit. No one can leave class during the first or last 10 minutes.

Textbook:

We will be using a variety of sources including, but not limited to, the textbook *Biology*, by Miller and Levine. The cover is green, and has a picture of a dragonfly.

Grading: Follow your grades on PowerSchool

Participation: 50% (Notebook, On-line journal)

Assessment: 50% (Tests, Quizzes, Projects)

Make-up work after absences:

You should have 3 people in the class that you can contact when you are absent to find out what you missed. It is your responsibility to see the teacher upon returning to school to get the assignments.

Unexcused Absences & Tardies:

Be on time to class. Come to class every day. If you miss class, it will affect your grade directly (lost participation points) and indirectly (you won't understand the material, you'll miss assignments, etc.). Labs will be very difficult to make up.

SOME VERY SPECIFIC CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND ROUTINES:

Things to do at the start of class

1. Turn your phone off, and put it away
2. Place backpacks under the table.
3. Before the bell rings, take your seat and begin working on the daily catalyst.
4. Throw away any chewing gum.
5. Be prepared for work: have your notebook, pen or pencil, and whatever other materials you need. **Handouts are always on the counter as you enter.**
6. Use the correct waste or recycling basket. Blue is for paper. Green is for empty bottles (not cups). Brown is non-recyclable trash.
7. All assignments should be handed in to the hand-in basket in the front of the room.

Things to do during class

8. Respectfully and silently listen when others are addressing the class.
9. Stay in your seat, unless you've been given permission to leave your seat.
10. Act safely and carefully.
11. Care for equipment. **NEVER WRITE ON THE DESK!**
12. Clean up after yourself.
13. Work in your assigned group during labs or other group activities, and stay in your group's area.
14. Become silent and focused within 5 seconds of my asking you to be silent and focused.

Things to do at the end of class

15. Wait until you've been told that we're done for the day.
 16. Carefully look around your area and make sure that there is no trash or misplaced supplies.
 17. Line your desk up with the squares on the floor, push your chair up against the desk, or, if needed, put your chair up on the desk.
-

Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Class: BIOLOGY, period _____

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am very happy to be teaching biology to your son or daughter this year. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns about your son's/daughter's experience in my class. You can expect a reply to any email within one day.

My email is

I'd also like to have as much information about contacting you as possible, so please neatly fill out the information below. PLEASE NEATLY PRINT THE INFORMATION BELOW, THEN TEAR ON THE DOTTED LINE AND HAVE YOUR STUDENT RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION TO ME.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS IN _____ Class

Student's 1st Name _____ Student's Last Name: _____

Mother's 1st name: _____ Mother's last name: _____

Mother's phone number: _____

Mother's email address: _____

Father's 1st name: _____ Father's last name: _____

Father's phone number: _____

Father's email address: _____

Please tell me anything about your student that will be useful for me in teaching them (and if you prefer, feel free to email me this information):
