

Biology

Mrs. West
Room K1

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will study the uniqueness of life by focusing on the unity of all life forms and the mechanisms that create such a beautiful diversity of life on our planet Earth. This class will focus on using hands-on explorations, creative projects, and inquiry based teaching methods to discover the vast wonders in biology. Content topics include cells, cellular processes, genetics, evolution, ecology, and human physiology. Emphasis will be placed on mastery of the NGSS and CC standards. You will be graded on journals, labs, classwork, homework, group work, creative projects, research papers, tests, quizzes, class participation and organization. Tests will include concepts and techniques learned in the laboratory. Every new subject will build upon the previous material, so it is important to keep up! Please visit during advocacy if you need help!

GRADING

I will be using Jupiter for your assignments. I will be grading by the semester, not by quarter.

90% - 100%	A	Final Exam: 10%
89% - 80%	B	
79% - 70%	C	
69% - 55%	D	

Your grades will be made up of homework assignments, projects, quizzes, exams, lab reports, pop quizzes, and notebook completion. Tests will account for approximately 50% of your grade, and will include concepts and techniques learned in the laboratory. You will be required to keep all of your graded papers organized in a binder.

SUPPLIES

- 1"- 1½" Binder with 3 dividers
 - Red pen (not blue, black, or highlighter yellow) for grading class work.
 - Lined paper + 10 pieces of graph paper
 - Highlighter
- Optional but useful:
- Glue stick
 - Colored pencils
 - Hair tie for securing hair back during labs

ATTENDANCE/ABSENT WORK/MISSED TESTS It is important that you are here! Besides you being important and wanted here, we cover quite a bit during class time. It is to your advantage to find someone you can count on for notes or worksheets if you are absent.

If you have an excused absence for a day an assignment was collected or stamped, turn it in the next class period at the beginning of class. There are absent work forms near the absent work folder for you to fill out and attach to the assignment, then hand the assignment to me personally. Please do not do this as I am starting class-wait for an appropriate time (at the beginning of the period).

Worksheets assigned in class will be placed into a file folder marked with the date it was assigned. If you have been absent, go to this folder and look for any worksheets you may have missed. See me for clarification AFTER you have checked this folder. If you have missed notes, please get them from another student or see me during Advocacy. I often create sample problems or examples on the whiteboard/overhead that are not saved anywhere, so again, it is to your advantage to find someone you can count on if you are absent.

Please note that any student who will miss class on the day of a scheduled test for any extracurricular activity or doctor's appointment, vacation, drivers test, etc..., MUST make prior arrangements to take the test. If you miss a test on a block day, you will be expected to make up the test during advocacy the very next day. If you fail to make prior arrangements, you will be docked 15% of the test points. Students who do not have an excused absence (cut) will NOT be allowed to make up tests or any other work from the day of the absence, or turn in assignments due the day of the absence. You will be given at minimum 1 week prior notice for all tests. Plan ahead and be in class! (This does not mean I cannot be reasonable about real illnesses and emergencies. Please email me or speak to me privately and make arrangements.)

It will be your responsibility to make up missed work. You are allowed one day for each excused day absent to make up work. You can get assignments missed from the absent work folder located in the classroom. Please feel free to email me, or ask a friend if you have questions about missed work (I will not be able to email you assignments-you will have to either pick them up yourself or have someone get them for you). You must get your "due" absent work stamped the day you return from your absence, and the missed homework stamped next class period after you receive your work. Failure to do this will result in you not getting credit for your work. I will not retroactively stamp your "absent work" on the day it is collected...unless it's actually due for you that day.

LAB REPORTS Lab reports must follow the proper format, as will be discussed later in class. Students will be expected to work cooperatively in the lab, but individually on lab reports. Working together to understand procedures or problems is encouraged, however **all written analysis, conclusions and discussion must be done individually with authentic answers.** I will not give credit for answers that have been slightly modified to attempt to mask plagiarism- don't do it! Be aware that giving your homework to someone to copy will have the same consequence as the person copying it- no credit.

HOMEWORK *Stamped* homework assignments, such as practice worksheets, will also be due, but not collected, at the beginning of the period. It will be given a stamp based on completion. If it is obvious that a student is frantically finishing his/her "homework" before class begins, or is frantically copying another student's work, the work will not receive a stamp. Have your homework out when the bell rings, but do not be working on it. Correct it with a separate colored pen to avoid looking as if you are copying. Stamped assignments are worth 5 points apiece, and are collected together at the end of each unit. If this work is lost or misplaced, credit will not be given for it.

For all assignments it is expected that you will use complete academic sentences.

MISSED LABS Due to time and material constraints, students who miss a lab may not be able to physically make it up. When this happens, the lab may be excused, or there may be a make-up lab to complete. To receive an A, additional work may be required. Please see me individually about what to do at an appropriate time the day you return to class.

LATE WORK (please do not confuse late work with absent work)

Collected homework assignments, such as lab reports, will be due at the beginning of the period unless you are specifically told otherwise. Any assignment turned in at the end of the period will be considered late. Late work will earn up to 50% of the point value if turned in one class period late. Late work turned in more than one class period after the initial due date will not be accepted. You may have one penalty-free late assignment per semester (fill out the WHY? pass). It may not be used with any group assignment, extended assignment, or long-term project.

NOTE: STAMPED HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE, AS EACH ASSIGNMENT WILL BE CORRECTED IN CLASS.

LAB BEHAVIOR You must observe and follow all safety rules. Those engaging in horseplay, behaving inappropriately, tampering with equipment or tampering with another student's lab may be removed from the lab and receive a zero on that assignment. Misbehaving can result in injury to others and will not be tolerated.

MISCELLANEOUS

- You may use the stapler, hole punch, and pencil sharpener as you need, but are respectfully asked not to open any drawers, cabinets, or cupboards without permission.
- Students are not permitted in the teacher workroom. Do not come looking for me.
- Do not enter the doors into the laboratory unless instructed to do so by a teacher.
- Headphones/cell phones are not allowed and will be confiscated if used in class without permission.
- Gum, food, and drinks are not permitted in the laboratory.
- Dry snack food for yourself is fine, but please keep it off of your desk and in your backpack.
- Please clean up after yourself, but please don't get up to throw your trash away in the middle of lecture or notes.

Please review all of the above information with your parent/guardian, sign below and return the bottom portion to me.

I have read the above information, especially about absences, cheating, and lab behavior. I acknowledge the expectations and the consequences. I also understand that I may not use a phone or wear a smartwatch during any tests or quizzes given in this class.

Print Name _____

Date _____

Period _____

Student signature

Parent/Guardian signature