Biology course syllabus 2014-2015

Skyline High school

Instructor: Mrs. Caldwell

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Room: 230, 234 & 237

**Welcome to Biology!**

Biology is the study of living things and how they interact with their environment. This year we will delve into the processes that allow life to continue and change. We will look at how animals and plants interact and provide food and necessary chemicals for each other, how organisms pass on genetic traits to their offspring and how organisms adapt to their ever-changing environments. In the end, you will have an understanding of the ways many different forms of life interact and depend on each other and how these interactions affect the world in which we all live, and ultimately YOU!

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During the 1st semester we will be focusing on the following topics:

* Science Skills & Methods
* Ecology
* Biochemistry
* Cell Structure & Function
* Photosynthesis

During the 2nd semester we will be focusing on the following topics:

* Cellular Respiration
* DNA & Genetics
* Natural Selection
* Body Systems

**Classroom Procedures**The following procedures are in place to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to learn:

1. Please be **in your seat** and **ready to learn** (all materials out and ready) **when the bell rings**.
2. **Be Safe:** Follow all lab and classroom safety and learning procedures.
3. **Be Respectful:** To each other, to your instructors, and of the materials in the room.
4. **Be Responsible:** For your words and actions. Be here, be ready and be a learner.

**Attendance & Tardies**

1. **Excused Absences & Absence Crate Procedure:**

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the absence crate & binder the day you return. It is best to arrive to class a couple minutes early to check the crate and pick up any assignments and instructions you need. You may also need to sign up for lunch study hall to make up an assessment, make up a lab or get help on an assignment. You are allowed one (1) day for each day that you were absent to make-up and turn in any missed assignments, labs or assessments. Materials and assignments will be available for one week from the day they were first assigned. You may also access the biology website at [www.skylinebiology.weebly.com](http://www.skylinebiology.weebly.com) to see what you missed and access some handouts.

1. **Tardies:**

Tardies disrupt the class and are disrespectful to the instructor and your fellow classmates. The consequences for being tardy are as follows:

* **1st Tardy:** Surrender one hall pass-or- stay 5 mins. after class if you do not have a hall pass.
* **2nd Tardy:** Call home to parent / guardian
* **3rd Tardy:** Science lunch detention & call home to parent / guardian
* **Any additional Tardies:** Behavior referral to administration

1. **Unexcused Absences:** Being present in class is essential to your success. Making the choice to miss class jeopardizes your successful completion of this class. I will contact your parents on your 1st and 2nd unexcused absences. On your 3rd unexcused absence I will fill out an attendance behavior referral which is given to your administrator.

Being present is essential to your success in this class. It is understandable that you may become sick and we do not want you coming to school if you are. However, it is difficult to catch up when you have missed discussions, demonstrations, labs and activities that cannot be done outside of class. Therefore, please make every effort to be in class at all other times. All assignments, labs & assessments will be available for one week. After this time, you will longer be able to make-up those assignments and will receive a score of “missing” in the grade-book.

**Make-up Assignments & Late Assignments**

1**. Make-up Work**: If you are absent you get one day for each day that you were gone to make up missing assignments. You may need to sign-up for a lunch session to make-up labs, assessments or get help on an assignment.

**2**. **Late Work:** Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. The information you learn from your assignments is essential for your success on future assignments and assessments, therefore, turning assignments in late can jeopardize your success in this class. If you attend a lunchtime session you may turn an assignment in late with no penalty. Late assignments turned in without attending a lunchtime session will not earn a grade higher than a 70%.

**Hall Passes**

You receive 4 passes this semester. You may use these passes to leave the room to go to the restroom, get a drink, make a phone call, or go to your locker. Once you have used all 4 passes you may no longer leave the room during class time. If you do not have your passes with you, you may not leave the classroom. Your time out of class may not exceed 10 minutes. If you are gone longer than 10 minutes, your pass privileges will be revoked. Please plan to take care of all of your needs during passing period and use your 4 passes only in an emergency situation. Again, if you are not in class you are not learning. So, minimize your time spent out of class in order to maximize your learning time. Any passes left at the end of the semester may be turned in for extra credit.

**Grading**

Your overall grade is broken down into the following categories and weights:

* 40% Tests, quizzes
* 20% Projects & Lab Reports
* 20% Daily work: homework, classroom activities, warm-ups, class discussion, binder, check-outs, timesheets
* 20% Semester Final Exam

Keep in mind that how you do on your assessments depends largely on how much effort you put into your daily work. So, even though the daily work is only worth 20% in the grade-book, your efforts in this area will also be shown in your assessment scores which are worth considerably more.

**Materials**

The following materials are **required** for this class:

1 ½ inch binder, loose-leaf paper, pens and pencils, tabbed dividers for your binder, composition notebook

The following materials are **helpful**, but not required:

Calculator, colored pencils, hand-held pencil sharpener

I expect you will have your required materials with you every day. I do not have pencils or pens for student use. Your binder and notebook need to be organized and with you on a daily basis. I will be doing regular binder and notebook checks as part of your daily grade. All notes, graded assignments, assessments, warm-ups, check-outs, timesheets, vocabulary and practice need to be in your binder and notebook and neatly organized for the notebook check.

**Electronics**

Personal use of electronics of any kind is not allowed in science class. Please leave these items, including headphones, in your locker or your backpack. If I see them out at any times other than when I have said you may use them for school-related purposes, I will ask you to bring them to the office where you will be responsible for picking them up from an administrator after school.

**Food & Drinks:**

Food and drinks are not allowed in science class. Water is allowed in a clear bottle.

**Extra Help**

Please talk with me if you feel you are falling behind or if you are need additional help with understanding a topic. The sooner you let me know you would like some additional help, the sooner we can get you caught up.

**I have read, understand and agree to abide by the procedures and policies of Mrs. Caldwell’s biology class.**

**Student\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent / Guardian\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**