

Biology Syllabus  
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Room: 177

Welcome to Biology! This year we will immerse ourselves in the study of Life Sciences as outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards for High School students (<http://www.nextgenscience.org/>).

**Units will include:**

1. Systems Biology (organization of body structures from cells to organisms)
2. Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration
3. Scientific Process
4. Biomolecules and Digestion
5. Cell Division
6. Central Dogma (DNA → RNA → Protein)
7. Evolution
8. Ecosystems

At the end of the year, students will take the Biology End-of-Course (EOC) exam. Students must pass the Biology EOC to graduate, and we will incorporate skills needed to be successful on the EOC into lessons throughout the year.

**Class Expectations**

1. **Be Present:** Excellent daily attendance and active daily participation are qualities of successful students.
2. **Be Positive:** We are a community of learners and we all learn best in a positive, supportive environment.
3. **Be Responsible:** As individual learners, we must own our own successes, learn from setbacks, and embrace learning opportunities each day.
4. **Be Prepared:** Each day, bring your lab notebook, something to write with, and your enthusiasm!

**Class Policies**

1. **Behavior:** We will be conducting lab experiments throughout the year in our classroom. Students must return the signed parent consent form to participate. Behavior inappropriate for a lab environment will result in immediate removal from the classroom.
2. **Eating/Drinking:** Because our classroom doubles as a lab space, eating, drinking, and gum are not permitted in the classroom. This policy also applies to items used during lab experiments.
3. **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in class unless authorized by the teacher. Students who elect not to follow the policy will be instructed to take the device to the office.
4. **Tardy:** Class begins when the bell rings to start class. Students not in their assigned seats when the bell rings will be marked tardy. Class ends when the bell rings to end class. Participation grades will reflect appropriate use of class time.

5. **Illness:** Students with excused absences will receive the length of their absence in class days to make up homework. Ideally, students should check the class website daily, ask a friend in the class, or email the teacher about work missed to avoid falling behind.
6. **Homework:** Expect to spend at least 20 minutes every day outside of class studying, completing unfinished classwork, and completing homework assignments. All homework is due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date in the homework tray. Late work may be turned in the following class day for 50% credit.
7. **Thinking:** Each student is responsible for demonstrating mastery of content. Work turned in that clearly does not represent the student's own thinking will not receive credit.
8. **Formative Assessment:** Students will have daily opportunities to evaluate their learning, and students will earn participation points by staying engaged through note-taking (in lab notebook), on-task behavior, asking clarifying questions, using class time productively, and tracking their own progress toward mastering the daily content and language objectives. Students will be expected to participate in clicker quizzes during class, practice respectful scientific discourse while working with others, and contribute to the best of their abilities on individual and group assignments.
9. **Summative Assessment:** Each of the 8 major units will include some form of major assessment. This may include a large project or an exam. My preference is for projects, and students should visit <https://www.nwabr.org/node/401> for a preview of options groups will have to demonstrate their learning.
10. **Extra Credit:** May be available upon request – please ask!
11. **Quarter grade:** Weighted based on the following performance criteria:
  - Formative Assessment (Classwork / Quizzes / Homework): 50%
  - Summative Assessment (Unit Projects / Exams): 30%
  - Participation (Engagement / Behavior / Citizenship / Attendance): 20%
12. **Semester grade:** 50% of the grade will come from each of the quarters.
13. **Grading Scale:**
  - A = 90-100%
  - B = 80-89%
  - C = 70-79%
  - D = 60-69%
  - F = less than 60%
14. **Extra help:** Please ask! I am available most days after school, and upon request before school or during lunch. Email is another excellent way to reach me. I strongly encourage students to form study groups and am happy to host and/or facilitate after school study sessions.
15. **Class website:** Visit <http://davidswart.wordpress.com> daily for a review of class content and additional learning opportunities!

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_