

Biology Syllabus
Instructor: David Swart
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Room: 073

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

Units will include:

- Bioethics and the Nature of Science
- Cells / Hierarchy and Homeostasis
- Enzymes and Digestion
- Mitosis / Cell Cycle
- DNA
- Inheritance and Meiosis
- Evidence for Evolution
- Earth History
- Cycling Matter and Energy
- Ecology / Human Impacts

Students should visit the class website <http://davidswart.wordpress.com> for a review of class content and additional learning opportunities. Daily lesson content, along with required reading, classwork, and homework will be posted there. Whenever possible, additional learning resources related to lesson content (i.e. readings, links to websites with supplemental content, videos, suggested mobile device apps, and more) will also be included in the lesson summary. **Students are expected to check the website daily.**

Course Expectations

In this course, you will be expected to:

- Have consistent and punctual attendance with positive participation in class.
- Engage in creating and revising scientific models, explanations and evidence-based arguments.
- Participate in sense-making talk with your peers during investigations and other activities.
- Speak up about what information or experiences you need to move your thinking forward.
- Apply what you're learning in class to real-world problems & solutions.
- Read the assigned sections in the textbooks, outside readings, and related handouts.
- Satisfactorily complete NGSS requirements for Biology.
- Maintain a science notebook AND a binder of completed work and tests.
- Spend at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted study per night 5 days per week to gain a working knowledge of science.

Class Materials

Students are required to bring with them to class daily:

1. Lab notebook (composition notebook, preferably quad rule)
2. Folder to organize work
3. Pens and/or pencils

Grading Policy

My expectation is that all students will be successful in this class. Come to class on time every day with your materials and an open mind. Share what you know and ask questions about what you don't. Engage in the material, build strong relationships within the class, and study every day. Hint: include sharing your daily learning at home as study time!

- 80% of the overall grade will be based on Exam / Quiz scores.
- 20% of the overall grade will be based on student work, including extensive lab reports, notebook checks, projects, and any other work I deem fit to be graded as student work.
- **I do not assign extra credit.**
- Homework is not graded, but will be entered in the gradebook to track completion. Homework is assigned as a supplemental activity to help reinforce the concepts learned in class. It is important to complete all assigned homework, as the assignments are a direct guide for the exams.

- Re-assessment is only available after all homework has been completed satisfactorily.
- Late work will be accepted only after conferencing with the teacher.

Grading Scale: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%

Less than 60% = unacceptable. You are better than that. See me ASAP and let's turn it around.

Classroom Policies

- Behavior: As a high school student, you are expected to behave accordingly. My expectations are high because you are worth it.
- Thinking: Each student is responsible for demonstrating their own mastery of content. Work turned in that clearly does not represent the student's own thinking will not receive credit.
- Language: Each day, we will practice the art of speaking the language of science. Words matter. Please choose yours carefully. Hate speech earns an automatic referral. If you are unsure, save it and talk with me after class.
- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in class unless authorized by the teacher. Inappropriately use will result in an administrative referral.
- Eating/Drinking: Because our classroom doubles as a lab space, eating, drinking, and gum are not permitted in the classroom.
- Bathroom: School policy states students may not use the bathroom during the first or last 10 minutes of class. When permitted, one student at a time may sign out the hall pass and use the bathroom. Please be courteous of other students: leave/enter the classroom quietly and be efficient so as not to keep other students waiting.
- Tardy: Class begins when the bell rings to start class. Students not in their assigned seats when the bell rings will be marked tardy. Students who arrive 10 minutes or more after the bell will be marked absent unless they have a pass excusing them. Class ends when the bell rings to end class.
- Absence: When possible, pre-arrange your absence with the teacher. Students are responsible for ensuring content mastery, and visiting the class website daily is the best way to stay caught up. Students missing class on a lab day must arrange to make up the lab with the teacher.

Role of Parent/Guardian

- Check Illuminate weekly to stay informed of your student's performance.
- Please contact me if there are special circumstances, concerns, or issues of which I should be aware.
- Thank you for ensuring your student comes to school every day prepared to learn.
- Please demonstrate interest in your student's learning by encouraging strong study habits and asking for them to share what they have learned with you each day.
- Encourage your student to take ownership of their learning. After school help is available daily.

Please sign below to ensure that the previous information has been read and understood.

I HAVE READ THE SYLLABUS AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE POLICIES REGARDING:

Student Initials	
	Course Expectations
	Class Materials
	Grading Policy
	Classroom Policies
	Role of Parent/Guardian

Student

Print: _____

Sign: _____

Parent/Guardian

Print: _____

Sign: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____