

## **Biology Syllabus**

**Instructor: David Swart**

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**Room: 1535**

**Class Website: <http://davidswart.org>**

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

### **Units will include:**

1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

### **Course Expectations:**

- Attend class daily. You should be seated at your desk at that time with notebook out and something to write with. Sharpen pencils before class.
- Be present. Hoods and headphones are not permitted in class. Remove both before entering the classroom. Our classroom is a lab space and hoods and your full attention is required for your own safety and the safety of others. This is non-negotiable.
- Personal electronic devices should remain in backpacks until use is expressly permitted. This is non-negotiable.
- Turn in work on time. Incomplete work is better than late work. Work turned in after the due date is worth 60% until the unit ends, at which point it will not be accepted for credit.
- Ask for help. We are a community of learners. Do not hesitate to ask questions.
- Personal protective equipment must be worn during labs as instructed.
- Students must have copies of both the syllabus and the safety contract (signed by both the student and a parent/guardian) on file with the teacher in order to participate in labs.
- Clean up after yourself. Leave the classroom better than you found it.
- Be respectful to your teacher and classmates at all times. Strive to be your best self and embrace the challenge of learning chemistry. It will be hard, but you can do it.

### **Student-Provided Class Materials:**

Students are required to bring with them to class daily:

- Quad rule scientific notebook
- Pen or pencil
- A folder to organize work
- Optional (but strongly encouraged):
  - Scientific Calculator
  - Eye Protection (Flinn Scientific Visor Goggles (item # AP1362) or Chemical Splash Goggles (item # AP8739))

### **Grading Categories:**

Assignments = 25%, Lab reports = 25%, Projects = 25%, Quizzes / Exams = 25%

### **Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = less than 60%

### **Classroom Policies:**

- **Behavior:** Students will be held to the expectations outlined in the safety contract. Behavior that presents a danger to self or others as determined by the teacher will result in removal from the classroom. This is non-negotiable.
- **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. Assessments (quizzes, tests, and exams) and expected to be completed individually. **Students sharing answers on assessments will both receive a score of zero on the assessment and a referral. If you think someone has been copied your work, please notify the teacher immediately. A discreet note on the assessment is sufficient.**
- **Language:** Each day, we will practice the art of speaking the language of science. Words matter. Please choose yours carefully. If you are unsure, save it and talk with me after class.
- **Electronic Devices:** The use of personal electronic devices is not permitted in class unless authorized by the teacher. Keep in backpack until told otherwise.
- **Eating/Drinking/Makeup:** Not permitted in the lab. Discard or safely store before entering.
- **Bathroom:** Take care of your body. 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:** Students not in their assigned seats when the bell rings will be marked tardy. Students arriving 5+ minutes after the bell must obtain a note from the office before coming to class.
- **Absence:** Students with an excused absence are expected to make up missed labs or exams on the next Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday after school following the absence.
- **Re-assessment:** Not available in this class. Students are expected to study well in advance for quizzes and exams. Students have a myriad of options to prepare for assessments: study guides, class review days, office hours, study groups, and the class website. Students can always ask questions in class, during office hours, and via email.

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

#### **Student**

Print: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Parent/Guardian**

Print: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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