

Course Guidelines & Expectations

Course: Biology

Text: McDougal Littell Biology

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Teacher: Matt Vallet

Classroom: 207

Office Hours

Before school, lunch & after school by appointment. I am usually at school by 7:00 am

Materials Needed

- **Mandatory \$13 Lab Fee.**
- 3 Ring Binder
- Composition Notebook
- Paper
- Pen
- Pencil

Textbook Information

Textbooks are available in the classroom, Textbooks to be kept at home will be issued only if requested. Books may be checked out for the entire year or on a nightly basis.

Course Purpose

1. To increase higher level thinking skills for better decision making and problem solving.
2. To help you understand what biology is and what biologists do.
3. To help you gain an appreciation for the diversity of life and the importance of living things in the world around you.

Course Description

Biology is an introductory course covering basic principles and concepts of biology. Methods of scientific inquiry and behavior of matter and energy in biological systems are explored.

Course Competencies

- Describe and utilize the scientific method.
- Describe the basic characteristics shared by all living things.
- Identify and describe the basic chemistry involved in the structure and life processes of living things.
- Identify and describe the structure and function of enzymes and cells.
- Describe the arrangement and function of tissues, organs, and organ systems in multicellular organisms.
- Analyze the processes of cellular metabolism and the related energy transformations, organic molecules, and cell structures.
- Describe and examine the various kinds of reproduction.
- Describe and analyze the processes involved in the biochemistry of DNA and the biochemistry of genetics (including protein synthesis).
- Analyze the events and processes involved in inheritance.
- Describe and analyze the processes that result in mutations.
- Describe and analyze the processes involved in evolution and their impact on all living things.

Read & Know: Expectations and General

- 1) Do your own work.
- 2) Be on time, in your correct seat **before the bell begins ringing**.
- 3) No headwear, personal electronic devices: cell phones, iPods, CD players and/or headphones are allowed in this class. Please put them away when you enter this class. **I will confiscate them if I see them.** They will be turned into Student Relations at the end of the day.
- 4) Sit in assigned seat and remain in seat unless a class activity permits movement.
- 5) Come prepared to learn, ask questions, come in for extra help/tutoring if needed!

Rules

Cell Phones

McQueen High School has adopted a zero tolerance policy for cell phones during class periods. There will be no warnings – if I see a phone anywhere in my classroom AT ANY TIME, I will take it and send it to Student Relations (SRO).

1st Offense: student can pick up their cell phone at SRO at the end of the day.

2nd Offense: Parents must come and pick up student's cell phone at the end of the day.

3rd Offense: All future repercussions will be administered by SRO.

Practice

Throughout the year, you will be learning an enormous amount of new vocabulary and exciting concepts. In order to be successful, **you** must dedicate some time and energy to learning the material. Successful students do some type of practice for this class every evening. If nothing is due the next day, consider doing part of a long-term assignment, reviewing past assignments, organizing your notebook, or reading over lecture notes for the upcoming test.

Academic Grades & Grading Scale

Academic Grades

Grades will be weighted in the following way:

Mastery:	60%
Test, Quiz, Formal Lab Write-Ups, CER writing, Projects	
Practice:	30%
Daily work, Informal Lab Write-ups, Practice Pages	
Final Exam:	10%
	100%

Grading Scale

A	90 – 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	0 - 59

Your grade is determined by how well you do on tests, quizzes, labs, practice work, and projects.

Late work will not be accepted for full credit. Assignments turned in after the due date will be worth 80% of original point value. Late work will only be accepted until the next Unit Test – once the Unit Test is given, late work will no longer be accepted.

The Fall Biology Project is designed to help students prepare for the final exam. The Spring Biology Project will be determined at a later date. Assignments include quizzes, notebook checks, and journal checks.

Your grade is determined by how well you do on tests, quizzes, labs, practice, class work, and projects.

Citizenship Grades

Citizenship grades are based on classroom behaviors, including gum and tardies. **Each infraction lowers your citizenship grade one-half letter grade.** If detentions do not alter your behavior, parent conferences may be scheduled, and the school's progressive discipline plan will be followed.

Attendance

You are expected to attend class everyday – whether you are at school or at home. It is your responsibility to attend class every day. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to make up the work you missed. If you missed a class in person, talk to me about what you missed. If you missed an online day, log in to Teams to see what you missed.

Test Retake Opportunity

Students have the option of retaking any test under the following guidelines:

1. The retake must be scheduled within one week of receiving the graded test, excluding excused absences.
2. The new test grade will replace the previous test grade.
3. Retake tests will cover the exact same content but will not be in the same format.
4. Students may only retake tests if they have completed **ALL** of the practice given in class.
5. Quizzes may not be retaken.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to,

- a. Copying another students' work without discussing it
- b. Using the same exact wording as your lab partner on an assignment
- c. Plagiarism (always cite your sources)

Students will **receive a zero for the assignment and all extra credit points for the semester will be removed.** A parent/teacher conference may be scheduled to discuss further consequences if it becomes an issue again.