 Biology Syllabus

Ms. Johnston

2023-2024

**Contact Information**

Ms. Sarah Johnston

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Google classroom code:

1. ***Course Description***

Biology is a course that explores life on Earth. We will cover a range of topics including evolution, genetics, diversity, and biochemistry.

1. ***Required Materials (if any of the items below is impossible for you to get due to financial hardship, please speak to me about alternatives)***
   1. Textbook: *The Living Earth* by Discovery Education
   2. Pencil, Pen (black or blue), Lined paper (college-ruled preferred)
2. ***Grades***
   1. 50% Assessments: This percentage does not include the final exam.
   2. 15% Assignments: All homework assignments are due at the start of class. Late work policy is discussed later in this syllabus.
   3. 25% Labs/Projects: To receive maximum points on labs students must follow lab write-up instructions given by the teacher and follow all laboratory rules.
   4. 10% Final Exam: At the end of each semester students will take a cumulative exam for the information of that semester. Students will receive a study guide in advance to help them prepare.
   5. Semester grades are based on the following percentages:

A = 89.5 or higher

B = 79.5-89.4

C = 69.5-79.4

D = 59.5-69.4

F = 59.4 or lower

1. ***Late Work*** 
   1. Any work submitted after the due date/time is considered late (unless due to an excused absence)
   2. Students need to write “LATE” on the top of their assignment before submitting to receive credit
   3. Late work will receive 50% of the original points (if all criteria is met for the assignment to be complete)
   4. Late work is accepted up to 3 days after the original due date (unless the student has an IEP/504 plan that specifies otherwise)
2. ***Attendance***
3. Absences: If a student is absent for any reason, it is their responsibility to find out what work has been missed. It will be difficult to make-up labs, videos, and certain in-class assignments.
4. Tardies: Students are expected to be in their assigned seats when the bell rings. School policy applies to tardies.
5. ***Classroom Expectations/Consequences***

**Classroom Expectations**

1. Respect the teacher and all students in the class
2. Arrive on time and be prepared to learn
3. Respect all classroom tools and materials
4. Be an active participant in classroom activities
5. No personal electronic device use without teacher permission

**Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy**

1. Students are NOT required to bring a personal device to class and cannot use them for any non-academic reason during class.
2. Students may only use their personal devices for academic reasons if teacher permission has been given; Students are not to use their personal devices for any non-academic reasons
3. Students should have their devices put away to prevent teacher confiscation or theft unless the device is being used for a teacher-approved academic reason.
4. Students should have devices off or on silent.
5. Air Pods/Ear Buds are not allowed on campus and may not be used during class time. If students do need headphones for an academic activity, the teacher has a class set that will be provided.
6. Students will receive one warning per semester about device use. After this, the device will be confiscated by the teacher and turned in to the Guidance Office.
7. Parent/Guardian pick-up will be required to retrieve the phone from the Guidance Office.

**Bathroom Breaks**

1. Students must ask permission to use the classroom pass for a restroom break.
2. Only one student is allowed out on a pass at a time.
3. There is a sign-out/sign-in sheet that must be filled out when leaving/returning from using the restroom/hall pass.
4. If a student is gone for an extended period of time, it will be assumed they are in need of assistance and campus safety will be notified to locate the student.

**Classroom Behavior**

Students should exhibit appropriate behavior while in the classroom. Some examples include:

1. Being in their seats when the bell rings, remaining in their seats until the teacher dismisses them from class (don’t try to stand by the door or pack up early)
2. Have cell phones put away and on silent/off
3. Be attentive when the teacher is addressing the class.
4. Stay on task throughout the class period.

**Consequences**

1. First Offense-Warning
2. Second Offense-One on one counseling
3. Third Offense-Time to refocus and Parent Contact
4. Fourth Offense-Referral

Student/Parent Signature Page

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Student Initials | Parent Initials |
| * We have read the syllabus and understand what is expected to be successful in the class |  |  |
| * We understand there will only be one warning for personal electronic device use during class |  |  |
| * We understand that the device will be confiscated after the first warning of the semester |  |  |
| * We understand that a referral will be written after the 4th offense |  |  |
| * We understand that a parent/guardian will need to pick up the device from the guidance office |  |  |
| * We understand that hall pass should only be used for emergencies |  |  |
| * We understand what type of behavior is appropriate in the classroom |  |  |
| * We have read and understand the late work policy |  |  |
| * We understand that students need to be in their seats when the bell rings and should remain in their seats until teacher dismissal |  |  |
| * We understand that students need to bring supplies to class and that the teacher should be contacted if there is financial hardship |  |  |