



Biology

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Room: 213

INTRODUCTION:

Course Description: Biology is an in-depth, year- long course in biological principles that influence the lives of all living organisms. This course is a laboratory course that will teach lab safety, microscope use, and other lab principles in addition to teaching state prescribed standards. This is a required course that must be passed in order to meet graduation requirements.

Instructional Philosophy: Biology is a heavy explorative subject that features problem solving, participation, engagement and both independent study and group activities. This course is an introductory laboratory course in the life sciences. Topics of study include chemistry of life, cellular energy reactions, cell cycle, heredity, ecology and evolution. The state required End-of-Course (EOC) exam is administered upon completion of this course. Although we are a 'Face to Face' course, we will explore a virtual model of learning using Canvas. This model will include many AVID strategies, virtual lectures, virtual labs and virtual activities. I believe in my students and I expect no less than their very best.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Students will be assigned the Biology Miller & Levine Textbook along with the corresponding workbook to work with.

MAJOR COURSE GOALS:

- Students will gain a basic understanding of the characteristics and interactions of living organisms.
- Students will gain a basic understanding of changes in ecosystems.

- Students will gain a basic understanding of the interactions of organisms with their environments.
- Students will gain a basic understanding of the process of scientific inquiry.
- Students will gain a basic understanding of the impact of science, technology, and human activity.

COURSE ASSESSMENT PLAN: *This course will include many tasks and assessments. At the conclusion of this course all students are required to take the EOC, which will count as a percentage of their final grade.*

- Pre-unit- Nature of Science & Lab Safety
- Unit 1: Cell Structures & Transport
- Unit 2: Cellular Processes
- Unit 3: Genetics
- Unit 4: DNA/RNA & Protein Synthesis
- Unit 5: DNA Technology
- Unit 6: Evolution & Classification
- Unit 7: Ecology
- Unit 8: Chemistry Unit 1 Preview

MAJOR COURSE PROJECTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Science Fair
- Virtual Labs and Activities
- Biology Vocab Project
- PowerPoint Presentations
- One-Pagers
- Discussion Boards
- Philosophical Chairs Debate
- Socratic Seminars
- Homework.

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

- Spiral Notebooks and/or 3-ring Binder with dividers
- Composition Notebook for Science Fair
- Pens
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Color Pencils
- Markers

MAJOR COURSE PROJECTS: Laboratory experiences are a major part of this course and we will have several labs throughout the year. In addition to the labs each student will be **required** to participate in the science fair. These labs and projects will give students ample opportunity to demonstrate what they should know and be able to do for the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Biology is a subject that requires much attention and dedication. It is deemed that all students are to regularly and punctually attend classes. **Per the Richmond County School System, students who are absent from school are required to bring a written excuse for the absence their first day back at school** in order to be deemed an excuse absence and to obtain any missing work. This policy will strongly be enforced. For more information on attendance, please visit the Butler High School Homepage.

GRADING POLICY:

Below addresses the district and school wide grading policy.

Grading Categories

Major Grades = 40%

- unit tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments 40%
- **Minimum number of major grades per 6-week progress report period = 2**

Minor Grades = 60%

- Classwork/Projects/Labs/Notebooks/Portfolios 35%
- Quizzes/Labs 20%
- Homework 5%
- **Minimum number of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = 5**

*All grades will be updated on a weekly basis using the online grading system, Infinite Campus (IC) and CANVAS

MAKE-UP WORK:

I understand that there are situations that require a student to miss class. In the event that a student misses an instructional day:

- **Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school.**
 - Assignments (that are not performance based/participation) will be posted in Canvas.
 - Students are responsible for asking for their make-up work upon returning to class.
 - Students can complete the work in Canvas or may download and print a copy of the assignment to complete.
 - In the event a student misses a test or assessment, **ALL** make-up tests will be given based upon student readiness and teacher availability.
 - Any work posted in Canvas is accessible throughout the entire quarter. However, it is strongly suggested to keep up with the suggested deadlines.

- All “M” s must be cleared from the gradebook before the end of each quarter or a zero will be assigned for each missing assignment.
- **Students who miss participation activities/labs:**
 - Will be assigned an alternate assignment that correlates to the participation task.
 - Students will have **5 days** from the date of return to complete and turn in missed performance tasks (with appropriate excuse submitted to guidance).

***Work that is not completed within this 5-day period will receive an “M” for Missing in the gradebook UNTIL the work is completed.**

HOMEWORK POLICY:

I believe homework is necessary in order for students to practice skills learned in the classroom; however, I rarely assign more than 10 problems in a given assignment. I will check homework for mastery and understanding on a regular basis. Students are expected to come to class with homework assignments completed.

GRADE RECOVERY POLICY:

Grade recovery is a strategy that encourages at-risk students to make use of the opportunity to recover their failing grade in the course. I understand that sometimes students fall behind for various reasons that may cause their grade to lack. In the instance that student needs to make up a failing grade, grade recovery options will be provided based on student need throughout the quarter.

TUTORING POLICY:

I will be glad to offer extra help during tutoring hours upon student request. There will be weekly sign-up sheets posted in Canvas.

- **Students requesting assistance must have made a good faith effort to complete all in class assignments and homework.**
- **The goal of tutoring is to assist students with current content. It will not be used to ‘make up’ missing work. Therefore, before requesting tutoring, students with excessive absences must have a doctor’s excuse or a note from a parent.**
- **Tutoring will be offered from 2:35pm to 3:20pm Monday through Wednesday *UNLESS* there is a conflicting issue. Students must utilize the sign-up sheet in order to request a tutoring spot.**

SCIENCE PROJECTS:

Students in Biology will be required to design, research, implement, and present a science fair project during the course of this class. Guidelines will be given closer to the Science Fair Date. This project stands alone from other assigned in class performance tasks and projects.

CELL PHONE USE:

- Cellphones **must** be turned **OFF** and put away during class.
- Students may **NOT** use cellphones for personal reasons during class.
- Acceptable cellphone use is limited to:
 - warm up activities that specify the use of a technology interface device
 - literacy activities
 - project research
 - other (requires teacher permission)
- When students violate this policy, I will assume that the cellphone is more important than my lesson. As such, I will ask the student to leave the class.

NON-NEGOTIABLES

CLASS PROCEDURES

CLASS AGENDA

- *It is the student's responsibility to check the class homepage in Canvas every day. Here they will find important dates and instructions.*
- The daily class agenda will be posted each day on the board in the classroom. Bell Ringers, Assignments, Due dates, Closings, Homework, and other important information will be placed here.
- *If you are absent, check Canvas, and make sure to ask for your missing work.*

TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS:

- Assignments are to be turned in to Canvas unless instructed to do otherwise. Please view the "How To Submit Assignments" tutorial in the Student Orientation Module in Canvas.

LABS: LABS WILL BE HYBRID/VIRTUAL/F2F. YOU MUST HAVE A PRELAB COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PERFORM THE LABS AND PERFORMANCE TASKS.

You will be graded on following:

- Introduction
 - Safety
 - Procedures
 - Results and Analysis
 - Lab Report.
- Although you will be working within your groups, you and your partners must turn in **SEPARATE** and **UNIQUE** lab reports.

- All lab reports must be typed (with the exception of drawings, data, and calculations), and are due on the assigned day. Labs can **NOT** be made up due to lab safety purposes. In the case a student misses a lab, they will be assigned an alternate assignment.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

- 1. Wear your mask AT ALL times. (Covering your mouth and nose)**
- 2. Clean and disinfect your area BEFORE and AFTER class.**
- 3. Do not visit with others or share materials with others unless instructed to do so.**
- 4. Follow the dress code.**
- 5. Be on time.**
- 6. Come to class prepared.**
- 7. Sit in your assigned seat.**
- 8. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES SUCH AS CAMERAS, SMART WATCHES, MP3/4 PLAYERS, IPODS, AND WIRELESS/CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED unless instructed to use them.**
- 9. Be respectful of others.**
- 10. DO NOT EAT OR DRINK IN THE CLASSROOM OR IN THE LAB.**
- 11. HAVE A POSITIVE AND READY TO LEARN ATTITUDE!**

CLASS ROUTINES:

1. Gather your materials needed for class and/or use the restroom **before** you come to class. Passes will not be given unless in cases of emergencies.
2. Make sure you have all required materials **before** entering the classroom. This includes:
 - Your book
 - Your notebook WITH paper inside
 - Your pen/pencil
 - A positive and eager to learn attitude
3. Check the daily agenda
4. Start to work on the Warm-Up/Bell-Ringer/Do Now if given.
5. Be ready to start by the time the grace period is over.
6. Work with your assigned group if given a cooperative learning assignment.
7. Make sure to turn in any assignments by the due date.

DISCIPLINE PLAN:

First Infraction/Violation: Warning; student-teacher conference (virtual)

Second Infraction/Violation: Minor Discipline Referral

Third Infraction/Violation: Minor Discipline Referral and parental contact;
Teacher detention; and/or referral to guidance

Fourth Infraction/Violation: Minor Discipline Referral and referral to administrator

Subsequent Violations: Referral to administrator; permitted from virtual class setting.

Students will be referred immediately to the appropriate administrator for the following offenses:

- behavior that is excessively disruptive
- behavior that is threatening toward self and/or others
- use of obscenities
- misconduct
- bullying
- disrespectful behavior

CHEATING POLICY:

Cheating is defined as

- Completing an assignment then allowing someone else to copy it for credit.
- Copying another student's assignment then turning it in for credit.
- The use of any unauthorized written materials, including notes written on body parts or clothing/shoes, during an assessment.
- The use of an electronic device such as cell phone, watch, etc. to obtain answers on an assessment.
- Copying another student's answers OR allowing another student to copy answers during an assessment.

If a student is caught cheating, I will

- Remove and destroy the student's work
- Call the parent or guardian and inform him/her that the student has been caught cheating
- Assign the student alternate assignments

1. **FIRST OFFENSE**

- The student(s) will be required to redo the assignment OR take a different version of the assessment.

2. **SECOND OFFENSE**

- The student(s) will be required to redo the assignment OR take a different version of the assessment. In **addition**, the student will be required to write a 250-word essay on why cheating is not an appropriate behavior.

3. **THIRD OFFENSE**

- Referral to an administrator **AND** a parent conference. Student will have alternate assignment provisions.

Acknowledgement of Cheating Policy

I, _____, (student's name) have read and understand the policy regarding cheating in Mrs. Williams' class. I acknowledge that cheating does not help me to master the content. I understand that, if I am caught providing answers to another student or if I am caught copying another student's work that there will be immediate consequences for my behavior.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Syllabus Check-Off

I, _____, (student's name) have read and have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the following content in the class syllabus:

GRADING POLICY

CLASS PROCEDURES

HOMEOWRK POLICY

CLASS ROUTINES

MAKE-UP WORK

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

TUTORING POLICY

DISCIPLINE PLAN

CELL PHONE POLICY

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE SHEET

I, _____, parent or guardian of _____, have read the Biology Syllabus for the year 2022-2023. I acknowledge that I have read and have the right to ask questions or discuss with Mrs. Williams, any and all of the following sections:

GRADING POLICY

CLASS PROCEDURES

HOMEOWRK POLICY

CLASS ROUTINES

MAKE-UP WORK

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

TUTORING POLICY

DISCIPLINE PLAN

CELL PHONE POLICY

PARENT/TEACHER CONTACT

Please feel free to join and have your child join the Biology class on Remind to help keep up with your child’s assignments, due dates, and important information. This will allow us to have immediate and constant contact in case there are any questions or concerns that may need to be addressed. You may download the Remind App, search my name T. Williams and join *OR* you may text the number and enter the code provided below. It is also **STRONGLY** recommended to join our Canvas course as an observer **AND** review our class homepage on BHS’s Website. This will allow you to see what your child is doing and how they are performing. Please reference the Welcome Back Letter sent via email to set up your account as an observer.

Send a text to 81010

Text this message:

@h64cc6

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Best time to contact you: _____

