



BIOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS 2022-2023

Welcome to Biology! I'm looking forward to a fantastic year of scientific exploration together! I believe that a successful class is built upon a foundation of mutual respect. With your cooperation we will be learning a lot this year and having fun along the way.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs. Seanne Louvet Musca

Email: seanne-louvet@scusd.edu

(916)395-5090 X 506127 Room B-27

Or, contact via Google Classroom private message

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1 inch (or bigger) binder
- Computer and internet
- Writing utensils (pencil, pen)
- Paper

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Biology is the study of all living things pertaining to life. Students will use inquiry methods to present biology as an experimental science. This course challenges students to construct their understanding of concepts starting from the laboratory experience and to develop their scientific literacy skills. The breadth of content in this course is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Content of course will be taught through discussions, lectures, labs, and other hands-on activities. Through the exploration of science content, students will learn to think critically, solve problems, work collaboratively and develop inquiry skills. This course satisfies the biological science high school graduation requirement and the University of California laboratory science "A-G" requirement for biology.

WHAT WILL WE LEARN ABOUT?

This course will explore topics related to biology (the study of life), such as cellular structure & function, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, genetics, natural selection, matter cycles and energy flow.. Earth science standards will also be integrated into this course, with a focus on the interplay between living organisms and our earth. In addition, the course will cover sexual health education and HIV prevention to fulfill the requirements of AB 329 (CA Healthy Youth Act 2016).

GRADING POLICIES

Grades are based on percentage calculations from points earned out of total points possible.

Categories for assignments and their point ranges include:

- **Participation & Engagement** (5-10 points)
 - Warm-ups, Spider Web Discussions, Group Work
- **Formative Assessments** (5- 20 pts)
 - ENB, Classwork, Homework, Quick Quizzes
- **Summative Assessments** (20- 100 pts)
 - Quizzes, Tests, Labs, CERs, Projects

GRADING SCALE

The following percentage calculations will determine the final grade (subject to change by district policy):

Score	Final Grade
90 – 100%	A
80-89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
below 60%	F

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. **Be prepared with a strong foundation** for a higher level of science education by developing the skills to think, act, comprehend, and communicate as scientists.
2. **Practice and apply scientific methods** through inquiry-based labs, simulations, and other activities.
3. **Develop scientific literacy skills**, by making observations of scientific phenomena, asking questions, gathering and analyzing data, developing models through collaboration and discussion.
4. **Build a greater understanding of and appreciation for** the scientific method, biology, and the natural world to be informed and thoughtful global citizens.
5. **Develop important life skills and habits of success** such as collaboration, mindfulness, and resilience.

ABSENCES & LATE WORK POLICY

It is important that students attend and participate in class. However, I understand that sometimes there are circumstances outside of your control that may prevent you from attending class. If you need to miss a class for any particular reason, please notify Mrs. Musca in advance if at all possible. We will work together to make arrangements for you to make up missed classwork and receive information and directions given in class.

If a student is absent the day of an exam, the **student will only be able to make it up during the day you return**, unless other arrangements are made with Mrs. Musca. If the assessment is not made up within a week, the grade will become an **automatic zero**. Since quick quizzes cannot be made up, if a student is absent the day of a quick quiz or the day prior to the quick quiz, they will be excused from the quiz.

All work is expected to be turned in on time. Late work will be accepted however, it will result in a 10% point reduction *per day late*, for a maximum of 30% deduction (unless an extension has been requested and already agreed upon with Mrs. Musca in advance).

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty (cheating) will **NOT** be tolerated! If you are suspected of cheating on **ANY** assignment (tests, quizzes, homework, class activities, etc.), you will receive a **ZERO** on that assignment. Academic dishonesty is defined as (but not limited to) giving and receiving answers during tests and quizzes, copying another student's work, and/or plagiarizing copyrighted work. Parents and/or admin will also be notified as appropriate.

Additional Assistance

If you need additional help, please ask! Mrs. Musca is available before school, during Lunch A. Please make an appointment with me if you want some additional help or need to meet after school.

Google Classroom Codes:

Period 1- hamgf5u

Period 2- suq5qaw

Period 3- caz4ugk

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Class Expectations

- 1) **Be respectful** of yourself, your classmates and your teacher at ALL times.
- 2) **Be present, prepared & productive!** Which means, NO CELL PHONES out during class, unless granted permission by teacher, and no doing work from another class. Bring all materials, stay on task, follow directions and remain in seats unless given permission to get up.
- 3) **Be teachable.** Practice self-control, learn to enjoy learning and never give up (no matter how tough something is)!

Other policies:

- **BE ON TIME.** If you are not in your seat AND working when the bell rings you will be marked tardy.
- **Plagiarism.** Any work that is copied or shared will be returned without a grade. When completing any class activity, working together is essential, although copying information word for word will be considered cheating. If this occurs, both students will receive a zero for the assignment.
- **Restroom.** Any moment you are not in class is a waste of valuable learning time. Use the restroom during passing period. In case of emergency, you may go but please ask during an appropriate time (please NOT when I am giving instructions).
- **No food or drink!** *Except water!

Violation of Class Expectations

If you **CHOOSE** to **break** class expectations there will be the following consequences:

1st Violation- Visual or Verbal Warning

2nd Violation- Guideline Infraction Slip, loss of participation points, and a call home

3rd offense- lunch or after school detention in my room, receive a call home

In some cases, students will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.

BIOLOGY BINDER

We will do much of our science work in our binder. The binder is very structured and part of your grade will be a reflection of how well you followed directions in organizing it and completing it. Binders can be used

You must bring your binder to class everyday or just leave it in the cupboard!

Some things to remember:

- Maintain your table of contents
- Always write and draw neatly
- Every page must be numbered and added to table of contents

I have read the syllabus and understand the included policies. I will follow them as a student in this class.

Student Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

I have read the syllabus with my son and/or daughter and understand the policies that it includes.

Parent/Guardian Name:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ **Date:**_____