Biology Syllabus

Course Description

**Placement: 9 Prerequisite: None Credits: 1**

This course is designed for students who show an advanced aptitude toward science. Areas of study will include the essential elements and objectives of those in regular Biology I with greater depth and at a more accelerated rate. A greater emphasis will be placed on lab and the ability to evaluate, outline, organize, and report scientific information. Laboratory procedures, observation, measurement, classification, prediction, and reporting skills will be stressed. Therefore, strong math skills are important. The student should be proficient in reading and projects are required.

Lab and Field Safety:

Safety is a major factor in every lab/field experiment. Safety infractions could result in the loss of the learning opportunity for that day. Furthermore, should safety be compromised, the teacher has the option of removing a student from the lab and assign an alternative assignment with a maximum grade of 70. *All students must have a signed safety contract on file with the teacher and receive 100% on the lab safety test before being allowed to perform any labs.*

Exams and Grades:

Categories/Topics

Category One: Cell Structure and Function

Category Two: Mechanisms of Genetics

Category Three: Biological Evolution and Classification

Category Four: Biological Processes and Systems

Category Five: Interdependence within Environment Systems

State Exam: Biology End of course (EOC) required to graduate

Semester Grades: 26% 1st/4th 6 weeks

27% 2nd/5th 6 weeks

27% 3rd/6th 6 weeks

20% semester exam

Classwork

iPad Disciplinary Procedures**:** iPads will be used in class for some assignments. When not in use, the students will need to keep them in the basket underneath their desk or in their backpack. Documentation will be kept for inappropriate use of the iPad in class. Failure to follow teacher expectations could result in parent contact, loss of the privilege to use the iPad, and may lead to further disciplinary consequences.

**Recommended APPS: Note Anytime, Itune U, I-Nigma (QR code Reader)**

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating/Plagiarism:Academic dishonesty—cheating or plagiarism—is not acceptable. Cheating includes the sharing of your work or copying of another student’s work—homework, class work, test answers, etc.—as one’s own. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s original ideas or writing without giving credit to the true author. A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to loss of credit for the work in question, as well as disciplinary penalties, according to the Student Code of Conduct. Respect yourself and do your own work.

Number of Grades: Minimum of 10 grades including 2 tests

Schedule:

Tests: Monday, Wednesday, and even Friday

Quizzes/Homework: Tuesday, Thursday

Tests/Retake: There will be least 2 tests/major projects per 6 weeks. If a student fails a test, the student can retest for a maximum of 70%. Student must complete test corrections prior to the retest. Students are granted one week from the day they receive their test score to complete corrections and retest.

Notes: Students will keep their notes in their biology notebook. Students will take notes using Cornell style format.

Class Information:

Class Procedures/Rules:

• Respect the instructor by following directions the first time given and complying with all school rules.

• Be respectful of others, cultures, backgrounds, and properties. No food/drink and beauty products allowed in the classroom.

• Respect yourself by following these simple guidelines:

Be in your seat, prepared (with materials) to learn and participate in the class activities before the tardy bell rings. Come prepared to class by doing your homework/having studied for your test. Turn in your legible work on time.

• Do your best.

Emergency procedures: During drills and any emergency situation, student must remain with their classroom teacher so we can account for them and make sure students are safe. Student not following this process will be referred to their principal.

Project: At least 1 per semester. Worth a test grade

Late work: Students may be assessed a penalty of no more than 15 points per day for up to three days before a zero will be given for work not turned in on time.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Days late | Maximum grade |
| 1 | 85 |
| 2 | 70 |
| 3 | 55 |
| 4 | 0 |

Make up Policy-Student Responsibility (from Student Handbook):

“Students with excused absences will have the total number of days associated with the absence from school plus one day to turn in make-up work. Parents may call on the second day of an absence to request make-up work. Please allow 24 hours before picking up make-up assignments. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain make-up work!”. “A student who is absent from school for any reason other than those reasons or provisions listed under “Attendance” will be considered unexcused. Absences for personal business and private lessons are unexcused. Work may be made-up with a maximum grade possible being a 70.”

***If you are absent on the day of a test, you must be prepared to take the test the next day you are in class. All test dates will be announced and posted in the calendar 1-2 weeks in advance. Being absent the class period before the test does not excuse you from taking the test.***

Online Textbook: Students will receive a username and password to access the biology book online. The book website is my.hrw.com

Materials: Pen, pencil, highlighters (at least 3 different colors), 1 ½ Binder with 5 dividers

Materials to bring and keep in class:

Period 1: Kleenex

Period 2: markers or map pencils

Period 3: map pencils

Period 6: markers

Period 7: glue sticks

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Contact Information: In order to get in touch with you, the parent/guardian, I will use the information you provided and entered in the skyward system. If your information needs to be updated, please contact the school as soon as possible. Please check your child’s grades through skyward. If you have any concern, the best way to contact me is through email.

My email: Kimberlycwallace@misdmail.org My Website: [www.mrskwallace.weebly.com](http://www.mrskwallace.weebly.com)

Teachers and Tutorial Schedule

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Day | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| AM (before school) | Wallace 344 | Lamkin 339 | Schrock 356 | Wheatley 352 | Wheatley 352 |
| PM (after school) | Lee 346 | Watson 350 | Lamkin 339 | Johnson 343 | None |

Discipline/Consequences:

Documentation will be kept on every student. Each time necessary the following will be used:

1. Warning (unless it is a severe offense and the student will be sent directly to their principal)

2. Student/Teacher Conference-Parent contacted.

3. Teacher Detention and Parent contacted/conference. Next infraction will result in office referral

4. Office Referral.

**Note:** As a teacher, I reserve the right to send a student immediately to the assistant principal’s office for situations which compromise safety of any individual, or for excessive disruption of the learning environment.

Teacher detentions will be scheduled 2 days after it is received and will last 20 min either in the morning at 7:00 or afternoon at 3:00. Students must provide their own transportation.

**Biology Teachers:**

**Mrs. Wallace: Pre-AP Biology, Biology**

I am an alumna of Mansfield ISD so I am familiar with this community and culture of academic excellence. After graduating high school, I attended Texas State University where I received a Bachelor’s degree in Biology. I minored in psychology and was also a member of the women’s soccer team. I am going into my 7th year of teaching, and six of the seven years have been here in MISD. I taught in Fort Worth ISD my first year, worked 2 years at Mansfield High, and have been at Lake Ridge 3 years. I am also the head girls’ soccer coach. I am married, and we have a 2 year old daughter. I enjoy teaching freshmen and teaching them about science, responsibility, accountability, and doing things in excellence. I am looking forward to a successful year! Go Eagles!!

**Mrs. Marie-Pierre Lamkin: Biology, AP Environmental Science, Environmental Systems** I was born and raised in Marseille, France. This year will be my 21st year teaching science. I have taught Biology in Texas and various levels of science at Saipan International School on a Pacific island. My scientific interests started with molecular and cellular biology and over the years have shifted to environmental science. I have a master’s degree in science education with environmental emphasis from TCU. I look forward to a new school year as well as sharing my enthusiasm for science and international experiences with all my students.

**Mrs. Watson: Pre-AP Biology, Biology**

I graduated from Baylor University in 2007 with a degree in forensic science and minor in biology and chemistry. I received my master's degree from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in 2008 and then went to medical school at Texas A&M College of Medicine. After two years in I decided I needed a change and began my teaching career. I've taught anatomy & physiology, forensic science, aquatic science and ap biology. I am married with two wonderful sons ages 1 and 3. I look forward to teaching biology and am hoping for an exciting and productive year.

**Mrs. Wheatley: AP Biology, Pre-AP Bio, Biology, Biology**

I am originally from Pittsburgh, PA but have lived in many states in the US. I spent the past 10 years in the Washington DC area, serving as both a teacher and an instructional specialist. This will be my first full year at Lake Ridge. However, I have been teaching science for 12 years. I have a BS in Wildlife Biology, MS in Biology, 60 graduate credits in education, and will be starting my doctorate in curriculum and instruction this fall. I am extremely passionate about both science and education and truly look forward to working with the students. I am married with three awesome children!!

**Mrs. Shurtz: Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Pre-AP Biology**

I am a first year teacher and coach at LRHS. I teach biology, anatomy and physiology as well as coach JV cheer. I completed my student teaching at Lake Ridge last year. This experience allowed me to become familiar with Mansfield curriculum, the biology team and the life at Lake Ridge. I am very excited about this coming year and look forward to meeting everyone.

**Mrs. Johnson: Co-teach Biology/IPC, Fundamentals of Biology/IPC**

I was born and raised in San Antonio, TX. I graduated *cum laude* from South West Texas State University in 1994 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology & a minor in Biology. I am currently in my 19th year of teaching. This is my 2nd year in Mansfield. I am really enjoying teaching here at Lake Ridge. My youngest son becomes an Eagle this year!

**Mrs. Lee: Biology and IPC**

Mrs. Lee is originally from the Caribbean island of Grenada commonly known as the Spice Isle. Mrs. Lee has also spent part of her childhood growing up in Brooklyn, NY where most of her family resides. She has a BS in Biology with a Minor in Chemistry as well as a Master’s degree in Health Administration from Midwestern State University.  She has been a teacher for 9 years, 7 of which were at the High school level. Subjects taught included physics, chemistry, and environmental science. Mrs. Lee shares a home within Mansfield ISD with her husband of 4 years. This is her first year in the district and she is excited to be teaching Biology & IPC!!! Go Eagles!! 