

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

For 9th Grade Academic Biology

Class: 9th Grade Academic Biology

Teacher: Mrs. Linda Henry, Room 201

Text: Biology by Stephen Nowicki

Criteria and Guidelines for this class:

1. Seating and Laboratory Tables: You will be assigned seats and laboratory tables for this course. Of course, COVID has made it such that masks, social distancing, etc. will be enforced. That will be your seat unless it is assigned elsewhere by the teacher. There should be NO talking during class lectures unless you are called upon by the teacher. Safety rules as well as facial masks will be strictly adhered to. If the class is scheduled for lab, please dress appropriately. If safety rules are not followed, it may reflect upon your grade, participation in the lab or may result in a detention....depending upon the circumstances of the infraction.
2. Biology Book and Notebook: You will be given an online textbook for which YOU will be responsible. You are to have access every day or unless you are told otherwise. You will be invited to the Biology Google Classroom for your assignments and work, including labs. You are also required to keep a paper notebook for your notes outline, handouts, worksheets, and labs. They should be brought to school everyday and be kept in an orderly fashion. These notebooks will be collected and graded for completeness every nine weeks for 100 points. This year, the textbook will be online and you may access it with a certain login.
3. Grading: You will be graded on a point basis and will be based upon the following—Notebooks, Homework, Quizzes, Tests, Laboratory reports, Projects. Usually one chapter is covered at a time on a standardized test and you will be given at least two days advanced warning about them. This will also be in preparation for the PA Biology Keystone Exam at the end of the year. Quizzes are usually announced the day before and sometimes not at all! Most tests and quizzes should be made up the day you return when absent, and homework is also due the day you return to school. All written work will be graded...and you are expected to answer questions in completely or graphically correct. You are also expected to correctly spell and define the biological terms directly related to the subject matter. Cheating will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to our school's disciplinary policy.
4. Tutoring: If you need help in your class work or tests, I can be reached in room 201 during most of the school day. I am also available before and after school. During the 9th period HR or activity period, you may come in to make up labs, tests, assignments or review biological material.

Course Syllabus And Objectives

The overall objective of this class is to provide a solid foundation in biological concepts and to learn to think like a biologist within laboratory parameters. This is tied in to the PA Biology Keystone Exam given at the end of the year.

Skill related Objectives involve:

- learning to think analytically, critically and creatively about biology
- realize biology is a body of knowledge that changes and a process of change
- learning to communicate their observations in writing or visually
- obtaining basic laboratory skills
- learning to cope with a large body of information presented fairly rapidly

Subject related Objectives involve:

- knowing the physical and chemical basis of life
- learning that cells are the basic unit of life and life functions
- describing how cells require energy and the ways they obtain and convert that energy for their use
- learning about homeostasis within the cell
- describing the nature of genetic material and the ways it is utilized and changed
- learning ways in which organisms adapt and the diversity of life through organisms changing and arising.

Some considerations about **why we study modern biology** is that it:

- interacts with other sciences like chemistry, physics and mathematics
- helps us gain more enjoyment from the natural world
- is useful for careers in health, agriculture, industry, research.
- Is in the NEWS (movies, TV, magazines, etc.)!!!
- is the basis of our economy through medicine, genetic engineering, pharmaceutical materials.
- Is the basis of our natural ecosystems that are in peril due to global warming, species extinctions, invasive species, and habitat destruction.
- Helps us learn more about OURSELVES!! (genetics, diseases, etc.)