

BIOLOGY

General Information

Welcome to Biology! Hello students and parents: I am looking forward to a wonderful year and hope you are too. Here is some class information to help you understand a little bit about how this class will be organized and some of the expectations.

Biology is a lab-based and challenging course. To be successful it is important for you to come to class on time, be prepared, **DO YOUR HOMEWORK**, and study. A little bit of biology each day will take you farther and help you learn faster (better grades too)! The following is some information on how this course will be organized.

Main Topics: Chemistry of Life; DNA and origins of life; Protein Synthesis; Cell Structure and Function; Natural Selection; Genetics; Biotechnology; Diversity of Life

Textbook: The textbook for this course is *BIOLOGY* by Miller and Levine (Prentice hall). Students should keep the text at home for homework assignments.

Class Supplies: Students are required to have a **3-ringed notebook** and a **hard-bound lab book** (preferably quadrilled—graph paper). The notebook and lab book must be brought to class each meeting. Notes, homework problems, handouts, and graded papers are to be kept in the notebook. Demonstrations and laboratory reports are to be kept in the lab book. Notebooks and lab books will be graded periodically for organization and completeness.

Attendance: Attendance is critical for success in this laboratory-based course since much of what occurs in class is hands-on and cannot be duplicated at a later time. Lab activities missed *may* be made up by appointment only, depending on the availability of materials. All students are expected to be in class on time, prepared, and ready to start working when the bell rings.

Assignment Calendars: Bi-weekly assignment calendars will be distributed denoting the material to be covered in class as well as all homework assignments, test dates, and lab experiments. It is the student's responsibility to keep current with all class and homework assignments.

Homework: Homework will be assigned daily; however not all homework assignments will be collected for a grade. Late work may be accepted for a grade, but the score will be lowered by 10% of the total score for each day late.

Tests: A test will follow each unit and a final examination will be administered at the end of the semester. Test questions will include material covered in the class notes, laboratory experiments, reading material from the textbook, and demonstrations. Quizzes will be given periodically.

Biology Teams: Each student will be a member of a Biology Team. Team members will be lab partners and will be responsible for seeing that any member of the team who is absent receives all notes, handouts, and/or assignments for the day he/she is absent. The composition of these teams will change periodically throughout the year.

Lab Exercises: Labs are an important part of Biology and I will try to incorporate as many lab exercises as possible. Lab safety is critical and we will review all safety rules in the laboratory.

Grading Policy: The grading system is based on a total number of possible points accumulated during the semester. The student's grade will be determined by dividing the earned points by the total points available to establish a percentage grade. The grading scale will be as follows:

- A = 90 – 100% of total possible points
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = 0 - 59%

Contact Information: My name is Carmen Olito. I always try to make time for students and parents. I will be in the classroom (S-6) after school and available during lunch. You may leave a message for me with the office (742-2500) or through the school district email olito_carmen@asdk12.org

I have read the course description and I accept the expectations associated with Biology.

(student's printed name)

(student ID)

(student signature)

(date)

(parent/guardian signature)

(date)