

**Course Description**

The student will conduct field and laboratory investigations using scientific method. They will learn about the natural world using conceptual models. Students will understand how systems function and interact through a collection of cycles, structures, and processes. The students will demonstrate an understanding of the nature of science, the organization of living things, and the interdependence of organisms and the environment.

**Textbook:**

**Biology- Stephen Nowicki**

**Course Summary**

Biology curriculum will include the topics: the nature of science and scientific methods, chemistry of life, cell structure and function, cellular energetics, heredity, molecular genetics, biological evolution, ecology, plants, animals, and human biology. These topics will be taught using a variety of methods, including reading, discussion, cooperative group activities, labs, demonstrations, projects, videos, homework, and computer activities. While the scope of the Biology curriculum covers all the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) the depth of these topics are enriched with student activities that expand beyond the curriculum offered to the regular Biology student.

**Required Materials**

- 2" ring binder dedicated to Biology
- Black or blue pen and a #2 pencil
- Designated colored grading pen (preferably green or red). ***Please do not bring a select an ink color pen!***

**Grading Standards**

- All assignments within a grading category will have a value appropriate to that individual assignment. This value will reflect the difficulty and importance placed upon that assignment.
- Overall grade book averages will be calculated on the basis of the following two weighted categories:

**Summative grades will comprise 70% of the Term Grade.** These are assessments administered at the end of each chapter/unit. Students success is directly correlated to their participation in class discussions, the completion of all homework assignments and the completion of their assigned textbook readings.

**Formative grades will comprise 30% of the Term Grade.** These are assessments that are designed to provide direction for both students and teachers while a student is still learning the curriculum, e.g. labs, daily performance assessments, some projects, homework, daily work, textbook reading quizzes, etc.

Semester averages may be affected by the EOC test as dictated by state law.

**Test Retakes**

A Summative grade may be corrected for a 70% when all of the following conditions are met; there are no zeros in the gradebook for the current grading period and the student has evidence of preparation to retest. Students are expected to sign up for one of the two available retest days. Retests are only given during tutorials.

**Make-up Work Due to Absences**

- The student is responsible for completing all assignments on time, responsible for getting missed assignments due to absences, and responsible for being prepared for quizzes and tests on the scheduled day(s).
- Absence on the day before a test will not exempt the student from taking the test on the regularly scheduled test date.
- Students must make up all assignments and tests missed while out because of excused absences. The student will have the same number of days to make up work as days that they were absent.

- A student who will miss class for a school sponsored event must turn in all due assignments **prior** to leaving for the event.
- Make-up tests may be different from the originally scheduled test format, and will be scheduled for a tutorial period. Students should not expect to make-up tests or activities during class time.

#### Late Work Guidelines for Projects and Daily/Homework Assignments

The student is expected to **complete every assignment!** No exceptions.

- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date.
- Students' who fail to complete assignments on time, can still complete their assignments and turn them in, no later than 8:50 A.M. on the following morning for a maximum grade of a "70".

#### Extra Credit

There is no extra credit available in this course. The student should always do their very best on all the assignments and tests as these grades will be the only ones used to calculate averages.

#### Final Exams

Final Exams account for 20% of the student's semester average. Given the high stakes associated with these exams, preparation is of paramount importance to a successful exam. The final exam is a chance to show that the student has retained the knowledge that was previously tested. In addition, the final exam is a chance to show that the student has corrected any mistakes or misunderstandings from the original test and can now answer the questions correctly. It is therefore understood that the student shall keep all tests from throughout the semester in their ring binder, that the student shall correct all mistakes on these tests, and that they shall seek timely tutorials for re-teaching when necessary. Collectively these old tests will constitute the student's only final exam review packet.

#### Tutorials

- Tutorials are available Monday through Friday from 8:20am to 8:50am and until 4:30 in the afternoon. If this time does not work for your student's schedule, please contact me to set up a tutorial date.
- **Tutor Tank-** This is a class work recovery opportunity which will be assigned to the student when he/she has failed to turn in three assignments. Tutor Tank will be held as needed.

#### Contact Information

- Preferred contact is by email shelly.jackson@dsisdtx.us
- My school phone number is 512.858.3191
- This is a voicemail box. Please allow me 24 hours to return your messages (72 hours if over the weekend). I can schedule time directly before or after school as well as during my conference period for parent meetings.

#### Classroom Rules, Expectations and Procedures

- Adhere to all rules and responsibilities listed in the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook
- No food or drink except water
- Be in your seat when the bell rings and ready to work.
- Pay attention, Ask questions and Participate!
- Help create and maintain a positive and safe learning environment
- Follow verbal/posted rules for electronic devices
- Never line up at the door!!
- Do not cheat, plagiarize or copy work!!
- **Consequences**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: A verbal reminder will take place and the offending behavior must stop immediately. Individual conferencing may then occur at the first opportunity when classroom instruction allows
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Classroom detention with remedial activity assigned; detentions will be served on the day following the offense unless the teacher schedules an alternate detention time
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Classroom detention with remedial activity assigned and parent/teacher conference.

- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Student will be referred to the Assistant Principal for disciplinary action

**Cheating--Plagiarism--Academic Dishonesty (Student Handbook)**

Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students. A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary penalties per the SCC [two days], as well as, academic penalties. Teachers who have reason to believe a student has engaged in cheating or academic dishonesty will assign a zero for the work in question.

**Plagiarism** is a form of academic dishonesty in which *you use other people's words or ideas* (pictures, art, charts, graphs, computations, scientific data, music, etc.) as *your own by failing to credit the others at all or by improperly crediting them*. If you use someone else's exact words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the person credit by revealing the source in a citation. Even if you revise, rearrange, or paraphrase the words of others or just use their ideas, you still must give them credit instead of pretending the words or ideas are your own. Your teachers will instruct you how to properly credit your sources.

While some plagiarism is obviously intentional and some might be considered unintentional (missing or improper citation due to carelessness, often because of hurrying to do an assignment at the last minute), both types are still subject to the same penalties.

If in doubt, ask your teacher before you turn in your assignment!

**IMPORTANT!**

Unless your teacher specifically tells you that you may work with other students on an assignment, ***you are expected to work on all assignments by yourself, using only your own thoughts, ideas, and reasoning.***

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