Mission
To educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors.

Course Description
This course is a study of fundamental biology concepts based on the Next Generation Science Standards. Students will evaluate evidence from experiments and technology used by scientists to understand the nature of the biology. Concepts and skills are reinforced by a strong emphasis on hands-on laboratory experiences and the integration of other branches of science. Constructivist methods of teaching are employed to ensure the best possible comprehension and retention of science concepts.
Prerequisite: Chemistry or Principles of Biology and Chemistry

Course Topics

Semester One
- Unit 1: Scientific Method, Biochemistry, and Characteristics of Life
- Unit 2: Energy and Matter in Organisms and Ecosystems
- Unit 3: DNA, DNA Replication, and Protein Synthesis
- Unit 4: Cell Cycle and Mitosis

Semester Two
- Unit 5: Meiosis and Chromosome Mutations
- Unit 6: Genetics
- Unit 7: Evidence for Evolution
- Unit 8: Mechanisms for Evolution
- Unit 9: Human Impact

Common Summative Assessments

Semester One
- Unit 1 Biochemistry and Characteristics of Life Assessment
- Unit 2 Matter and Energy in Ecosystems Assessment
- Unit 2 Matter and Energy in Organisms Assessment
- Unit 3 DNA Structure and Replication Assessment
- Unit 3 Protein Synthesis Assessment
- Unit 4 Cell Cycle and Mitosis Assessment

Semester Two
- Unit 5 Meiosis and Chromosome Mutations Assessment
- Unit 6 Mendelian Genetics Assessment
- Unit 6 Non-Mendelian Genetics and Epigenetics Assessment
- Unit 7 Evidence for Evolution Assessment
- Unit 8 Mechanisms for Evolution Assessment
- Unit 9 Human Impact Assessment

Grading
Your course grade will reflect what you have learned, not what you have completed.
85% Course content grade
15% Final Exam

Course Content Grade
10% - Formative - Daily work (homework, whiteboard presentations, and practice quizzes)
90% - Summative - Quizzes, projects, labs and lab assessments, and unit exams

Grading Disbursement
A @ 90-100 %
B @ 80-89 %
C @ 70-79 %
D @ 60-69 %
F @ below 60%

**Academic Integrity**
Students will be expected to submit only original work and follow the academic integrity policy described in the student handbook.

**Reassessment Policy for Summative Assessments**
1. Reassessments are only available for all unit exams. Reassessments are not available for any other coursework or final exams.
2. Students are only allowed reassessments on summative work of which they receive a 79% or below.
3. The maximum grade the student can receive on the reassessment is an 80%.
4. The higher of the two grades earned, between the original test and reassessment, will be recorded in Infinite Campus.
5. Reassessments for summative work must be completed before deadline conveyed by the teacher.
6. Students will only have one opportunity to take a reassessment per unit test.
7. Reassessments will be a new form of the assessment that addresses all of the same topics that were on the original assessment.
8. To be eligible for a reassessment, students are required to have their original assignments turned in on time. Upon teacher discretion students need to complete an alternative assignment prior to the retake which they must turn in to their teacher on the day of the reassessment.

**Digital Viewing Options:**
- Planet Earth
- Gattaca
- Lorenzo’s Oil
- Wonder
- The Lorax
- Extraordinary Measures
- The Croods
- Life
- Ted Talks/Documentaries

**Communication**
- Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 48 hours during the workweek.
- The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven’t received a response in 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have gone into the spam folder.

**What to do if a student needs help**
- Make an appointment with your teacher
- After school Homework Help (Literacy Center)
- Peer tutoring help available before school and during all lunch periods

**Parents and Guardians – we need your help please!**
- Parents should actively check Infinite Campus for their students’ grade.
  - The grades on Infinite Campus will be accurate only at the monthly progress report dates.
  - Infinite Campus is a communication tool until final semester grade is posted.
- Please ask your son/daughter about their school work. For access to our Canvas course, please log in with your student.
- Check with your individual teacher for classroom procedures and schedules.