Mission

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

Philosophy

Learning is not a spectator sport. Fundamentally, the responsibility to learn is yours and yours alone. For learning to happen in any course, you must take an active role in the process. For our class, you are expected to come to class prepared and ready to learn, which requires you to read and to study the assigned reading before you come to class. Being prepared for class enables you to construct a knowledge base on which subsequent learning rests. During our class, the learning and discussion is often student driven, which means your teacher talks less to get you to talk about what you are learning. Your grade is a reflection of your mastery of the course standards and not solely on completion.

Course Description

This course is a study of fundamental biological concepts based on the Next Generation Science Standards. Students will evaluate evidence from experiments and technology used by scientists to understand the nature of 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.

Course Topics

- Unit 1: Biochemistry and Characteristics of Life
- Unit 2: Cellular Metabolism
- Unit 3: Cell Cycle, DNA and Mitosis
- Unit 4: Protein Synthesis
- Unit 5: Meiosis and Genetics
- Unit 6: Evolution
- Unit 7: Ecology

Common Unit Assessment

- Unit 1 Assessment: Characteristics of Life
- Unit 2 Assessment: Cells and Cell Transport
- Unit 2 Assessment: Energy
- Unit 3 Assessment: DNA and Cell Cycle
- Unit 4 Assessment: Protein Synthesis
- Unit 5a Assessment: Meiosis
- Unit 5b Assessment: Genetics
- Unit 6a Assessment: Evidence of Evolution
- Unit 6b Assessment: Mechanisms of Evolution
- Unit 7 Assessment: Ecology
Grading

85% Course content grade
15% Final Exam

Course Content Grade
20% - Formative - Daily work (Homework, lab data collection, whiteboard presentations, and practice quizzes)
80% - Summative - Quizzes, projects, lab assessments, and unit exams

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

Reassessment Policy for Summative Assessments
• Reassessments are available for ONE summative unit exam per semester.
• Reassessments may only be applied to exams on which the original score was 70% or lower of the total assessment value. A Reassessment may only qualify for a maximum of 70%.
• Students will be responsible for completing a preparatory assignment, specific to that unit prior to taking the reassessment.
• The reassessment will take place at the end of the semester.
• Reassessments may be a new form of the assessment that addresses all of the same topics that were on the original assessment.

Academic Integrity

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

Communication

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
• Before school Science Help Center
• After school tutoring sessions
• Peer tutoring help available before school and during all lunch periods.

Parents and Guardians – we need your help please!

Please encourage your student to speak with the teacher to discuss questions regarding the class or their progress.