

Naperville North High School Honors Biology Syllabus 2023/2024



Teacher: Brady DeNio Email/Phone: Bdenio@naperville203.org 420-6513 Office: Science
Department Chair: Jim Konrad Department Chair Email: Jkonrad@naperville203.org

District Mission

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

Department Mission

At Naperville North High School, our mission is to provide high-quality, innovative, and engaging science education that fosters deep understanding, critical thinking, and a lifelong passion for scientific inquiry. Grounded in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), our curriculum and teaching approach empower students to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world. We are dedicated to nurturing curiosity, collaboration, and scientific literacy, preparing our students to become informed citizens who can contribute to solving local and global challenges through the application of scientific principles.

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. Prerequisite is successful completion of Honors Chemistry or Chemistry.

Course Textbook & Resources

Book: Pearson Campbell Biology In Focus (students will have access to online book at Pearson.com)
Piloting ISTA & LAB Aides curriculum

Course Standards & Weights

Academic: The items below are linked to other sources
HS-LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
HS-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
HS-LS3 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
HS-LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

SEL

1C.4b. Apply strategies to overcome obstacles to goal achievement.
2B.4b. Demonstrate respect for individuals from different social and cultural groups.
3B.4a. Evaluate personal abilities to gather information, generate alternatives, and anticipate the consequences of decisions.

Units of Study:

Semester 1:

Unit 1: Biochemistry and Characteristics of Life
Unit 2 - The Africa Unit (Piloting Crean)
Unit 3: Cellular Metabolism
Unit 4: Cell Cycle and DNA
Unit 5: Protein Synthesis

Semester 2:

Unit 6: LAB Aides Pilot
Unit 7: Meiosis and Genetics
Unit 8: Biotechnology
Unit 9: Evolution
Unit 10: Ecology

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Grade Calculation Definitions

Students will be provided with multiple and varied opportunities to demonstrate mastery of learning standards. Although varied in content, all courses will include examples of practice and evidence of learning:

- Evidence of Learning: Tasks or assessments where feedback is provided to the student and considered evidence of a student's level of proficiency on a given standard or skill. This may include, but is not limited to formative tasks that provide insights on areas for growth as well as summative tests, projects and/or performances. In this course, specific examples include: Unit Exams, transfer tasks and lab quizzes
- Practice: Tasks that are connected to course standards and learning targets that promote the development of skills and/or knowledge that will be assessed, but where feedback is not provided. This may include, but is not limited to daily readings, note taking, practice exercises and tasks essential to the learning process. In this course, specific examples include: DNA modeling, Mastering Biology assignments and genetic problems.

Grading Disbursement

Semester grades for all classes (prior to the final exam) will be calculated by a weighted average. As part of the calculation for the overall semester grade, final exams/projects will not exceed 15% of the semester grade.

A = 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C = 79-70%, D = 69-60%, F = 59-0%

Semester Grade:

- Coursework = 85%:
 - Evidence of Learning = 90% which then is broken down into 10% Evidence quiz, 20% Lab Quiz, 70% unit assessments
 - Practice= 10%
- Final Exam = 15% *Final Exam Format:* Cumulative exam

Grading Practices

Grades communicate each student's progress toward mastery of goals/standards for the course.

- Infinite Campus Symbols/Comments:
 - A score of "Missing" (M) will indicate an assessment has not been turned in and the comments section will include a specific date by which students can still submit. After that date, a zero (0) will be recorded.
 - Any score may also have a comment indicating the due date, turned in, late, reassessment eligibility including the timeline and/or reassessment final scores.
 - A zero indicates that no attempt was made by the student. If a legitimate attempt is made on an assessment and practice work has been completed in a consistent and timely manner (*completing 80% of practice listed in Infinite Campus.*), a score of 50% will be the lowest possible grade.
- Late Work:
 - Evidence of Learning work submitted after the original due date cannot be penalized more than a total of 10% and can be submitted for credit up to 5 days after the original due date.
 - Practice Work is not accepted for credit after the due date.
- Other:
 - No extra credit will be issued.

Academic Integrity Code

District 203 students are challenged to address the academic process enthusiastically, diligently, and most importantly, honestly. It is the responsibility of our students, teachers, and administration to uphold the fundamental academic values of honesty, responsibility, fairness, respect, and trust. The integrity of our district's academic programs is built upon these principles.

Academic integrity violations include cheating; plagiarism, self-plagiarism or copy infringement; obtaining or providing an unfair advantage; falsification of documents; unauthorized access to records; and inappropriate collaboration, whether intentional or unintentional. The classroom teacher and administration will collaborate and exercise professional judgment in determining academic integrity violations.

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Reassessment Policy

The purpose of reassessment is to allow students to demonstrate mastery of course standards in which they remain deficient. Higher reassessment grades will replace the original assessment score, but will not exceed 80%.

- Practice work is not eligible for reassessment.
- Evidence of Learning work with a score below 80% is eligible for reassessment if students have:
 - Demonstrated readiness through timely and consistent completion of practice work. *This means completing 80% of practice listed in Infinite Campus.*
 - Completed designated learning experiences as assigned by the teacher as outlined below:
- Timeline: Reassessments must be completed 5 school days after the student receives feedback (unless otherwise determined by the instructor).
- Project-Based Assessments that include multiple opportunities for feedback and improvement in the assessment process will represent multiple attempts and be considered a reassessment

Student Communication

- You are encouraged to communicate with their teacher regarding questions.
- Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 24 hours during the workweek.
- The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven't received a response within 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have been filtered.

Additional Resources for Support

- You can make an appointment with your teacher should you need additional instruction or support in learning material.
- You can attend After School Tutoring in the Learning Commons Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:15-4:15 to receive extra support or to work on assignments.
- You can drop in to work with a peer tutor during lunch periods or before school in the Literacy Center.
- Utilize the Mastering Biology website for enrichment opportunities (practice quizzes, video tutorials, flashcards, enrichment assignments, etc.)

Parents or Guardians Partnership

Naperville North believes in a collective partnership with parents/guardians which provides students the best opportunities for success.

Some ways parents/guardians can support their student's learning are:

- Actively check Infinite Campus for their student's grades.
 - Infinite Campus is a tool to progress monitor student work until the final course grade is posted.
 - Monthly progress grades are posted and represent the current grade of a student in the course at that moment in time.
- Discuss missing assignments, reiterate due dates, help organize folders, materials, assignment notebooks, and review upcoming projects and assessments.

Digital Viewing Options

Planet Earth, Gattaca, Lorenzo's Oil, Wonder, The Lorax, Extraordinary Measures, The Croods, Life, Walking with Monsters, Your Inner Fish, Ted Talks and other documentaries