

# Biology 2018-2019

## Instructors:

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**Class Description:** Biology is a state standards based laboratory course that studies living things from the microscopic to the macroscopic. The ultimate goal is to help students become scientifically literate citizens. This is a year long science class and is a graduation requirement.

**Minnesota High School Standards:** The goal of this class is to meet the state standards for Life Science as well as some of the Nature of Science and Engineering Standards. This class is also aligned with Minneapolis Public School's Focused Instruction.

**Curriculum Materials:** Students will be using the textbook: Biology by Miller and Levine as a primary resource for the class. Additional materials will be posted on the class web site.

**Timeline:**

- Quarter 1: Introduction to Biology and Ecology
- Quarter 2: Biochemistry, Cells, and DNA
- Quarter 3: Heredity and Evolution
- Quarter 4: Homeostasis and Student Designed Controlled Experiment

**Grading:** The primary purpose of grading is to communicate the academic status of students to students, families, employers, and post-secondary institutions. A grade should accurately reflect **what students know and are able to do** in a course.

## Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage Range	Definitions
A	100-93	<b>Exemplary Work</b> – The student is working at the highest level with consistent, high-quality work. The student participates actively in class. The student is a leader and assists others in the class.
A-	92-90	
B+	89-87	<b>Proficient/Thorough Work</b> – The student is doing very good, above average work. The student consistently participates in class. The student engages positively with others in the class.
B	86-83	
B-	82-80	
C+	79-77	<b>Satisfactory/Acceptable Work</b> – The student is working at grade level and does good work. The student participates in class. The student works well with others in the class.
C	76-73	
C-	72-70	
D	69-60	<b>Minimal Passing Work</b> – The student is doing minimal work in class or is missing a lot of work. The student contributes minimally to class activities. The student engages minimally with other students.
F	59-0	<b>Unacceptable Work</b> – The student is not working to grade level or is not doing the work at all. The student does not contribute well to class activities. The student does not engage positively with other students.

**85% Summative:** Tests (you may retake tests) , Labs

**15% Formative:** Formative Quizzes, classwork, mini-labs, online labs

## Grade Makeup:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
15% Practice <b>15% Introduction to Biology</b> 20% Ecology: Cycles 15% Ecology: Populations 20% Env Issues Project 15% Labs	15% Practice <b>15% Biochemistry: Macromolecules</b> <b>15% Biochemistry: ATP</b> 25% Cells 15% DNA 15% Labs	15% Practice <b>25% Heredity</b> <b>25% Evolution</b> 20% Biotech Project 15% Labs	15% Practice <b>15% Homeostasis: Plants</b> <b>15% Homeostasis: Animals</b> <b>15% Homeostasis: Immune System</b> <b>25% Controlled Experiment</b> 15% Labs

Summative Assessments are in **bold**. Students must complete every summative assignment to pass the course.

**Missing & Late Work:** Formative work will not be accepted late. If the student was excused absent during the assignment, it will be marked as excused. If the student was unexcused absent during the assignment, it will be marked as an F. Summative projects (including lab assignments) will be given a **due date** and it is strongly suggested that students complete them by that time or they may fall behind in the class. There is no penalty for turning them in past the due date other than falling behind in class. No late submissions will be accepted during the last week of the quarter. That is the **deadline**.

**Extra Credit:** No extra credit will be offered in this course. Students should take advantage of the retake policy to improve their grade.

**Retake Policy:** Students may retake a summative test. It must be scheduled outside of the school day with the instructor. The retake must take place within two weeks of the original test. The final test score will take into account the original test score. The retake test may be different from the original test, but covering the same content. The student will be required to show preparation for the retake before taking the retake.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is ESSENTIAL to success in this class. Students are strongly encouraged to address their personal needs during passing time and during lunch and to come to class prepared. Hall passes will be given at the discretion of the instructor. Students are expected to be in the room and purposefully moving towards their seat when the bell rings. Parents/guardians will be contacted if a student has three or more tardies in a marking period. After three tardies, the student will be referred to the Dean. If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to find out what they missed from their peers and the instructor at appropriate times. Missed tests must be made up within five school days of the absence.

**Behavior/Classroom Expectations:** Students are expected to demonstrate Miller PRIDE (Professionalism, Respectful, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence) in the classroom. Students are also expected to follow the lab safety guidelines covered at the beginning of the semester. Food may **not** be brought into the classroom; however liquids in spill proof containers are welcome.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Students are expected to not use personal electronic devices from bell to bell during class. Teachers will follow the school guidelines.

**Supplies Needed:** Each student needs a binder, notebook, a pocket folder, blue or black ink pens, pencils, and a scientific calculator.

**Office Hours:** Before school by appointment and after school until 4:00pm.

*Grading modifications may be made for students with IEP or 504 plans.*

# Return this page into your Biology Teacher

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Going Outside

This course will require students to identify with their immediate environment. We will be heading outside (during our class hour). Students will be told at least one day in advance of these local "field trips". Students are encouraged to dress appropriately (for your comfort and mine). Please initial below stating that you and your parent/guardian understand this.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Initials

## Photographs

The instructor applies for grants to provide money or supplies to enhance students' classroom experience. Many times the organization granting money requires photos of students using the supplies that were donated to us. The photos have: NO STUDENT NAME, NO SCHOOL NAME, and NO TEACHER NAME associated with them and typically do NOT show faces of students unless you have signed the media release. By signing below (or if you signed a media release for the district) you are saying it is OK to use your child's image using the material donated to us.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Initials

## Use of Technology

Cell phone use is not permitted during class time. Students are expected to be responsible users of school technology. By initialing below, you understand the expectations around use of technology.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Initials

## Lab Safety Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this contract. I realize that I must obey these rules to ensure my own safety, and that of my fellow students and instructors. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the instructor. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the laboratory or misbehavior on my part, may result in being removed from the laboratory, detention, receiving a failing grade, and/or dismissal from the course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Initials

## QUESTIONS

Do you wear contact lenses?  
YES NO

Are you color blind?  
YES NO

Do you have allergies?  
YES NO

If so, list specific allergies. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The syllabus containing class requirements, grading policies, and classroom expectations can be found on the class web site. The lab safety contract can also be found on the class web site. If you would like an additional paper copy, feel free to request one from the instructor.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We feel that you should be informed regarding the school's effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment. With the cooperation of the instructors, parents, and students, a safety instruction program can eliminate, prevent, and correct possible hazards. You should be aware of the safety instructions your son/daughter will receive before engaging in any laboratory work. Please read the list of safety rules given to your student. No student will be permitted to perform laboratory activities unless this contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher.

Your initials on this contract indicates that you have read this Student Safety Contract, are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your son/daughter in the science laboratory, and will instruct your son/daughter to uphold his/her agreement to follow these rules and procedures in the laboratory.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Initials

### Signatures

We have read and understand the course requirements and expectations for Biology Class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Cell Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email Address (PLEASE PRINT)