

# Applied Biology Syllabus

**Teacher:** Mrs. Jessica Moser

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*\*Please note the teacher reserves the right to change or modify any or all of the following syllabus at any time.  
Thank-you for your understanding.*

## **Course Description / Overview:**

The biology course deals with the variety of living things in the world and builds on basic concepts developed, primarily, in the science courses of grades seven, eight, and nine. This course is designed to cover all of the major forms of life but heavily emphasizes the basic similarities and patterns found in nature. The student is helped to discover his/her place in the world of life in regard to his effect on the world and, in turn, its effect on him or her. Units are developed from centrality of the cell in structure and function, as well as the basic commonness of all life at this level. The diversity of life is then explored by means of taxonomical classification of life with particular emphasis on uniqueness and economic importance of each group. Students are assigned to this course if they did not pass the Biology Keystone Exam as a review and practice of material prior to retaking the Biology Keystone Exam.

**Text Book:** Glencoe- "Biology Living Systems"

## **Required Materials:**

In addition to the textbooks, students will be required to bring their 3-ring binder (first one will be provided to them), a pencil or other writing utensil, and a positive attitude.

## **Course Schedule:**

### Unit 1- Ecology

- Principles of Ecology
- Communities, Biomes, and Ecosystems
- Population Ecology
- Biodiversity and Conservation

### Unit 2- The Cell

- Chemistry in Biology
- Cellular Structure and Function
- Cellular Energy
- Cellular Reproduction

### Unit 3- Genetics

- Sexual Reproduction and Genetics
- Complex Inheritance and Human Heredity
- Molecular Genetics
- Genetics and Biotechnology

#### Unit 4- History of Biological Diversity

- The History of Life
- Evolution
- Primate Evolution
- Organizing Life's Diversity

#### **Grading Information:**

Grading for this course is a weighted system. The grading will be divided into four categories:

##### 1. Participation / Preparation:

- At the beginning of each quarter, each student will receive 100 points for participation (2 points per day).
- Each time he / she comes to class unprepared or is disruptive / disrespectful to the learning of others within the class, 2 points will be deducted.
- My goal is for every student to earn 100% in this area.

##### 2. Labs / Activities / Projects:

- Labs / Activities / Projects will vary and differ as needed to support student learning of the current material being covered.
- Students will be assigned an alternate assignment for either a virtual lab / activity or in class lab / activity, if a **Laboratory Safety Agreement** form or (for virtual work) a **District Network Usage Policy Agreement** Form has not been submitted.

##### 3. Homework / In-class Assignments:

- Homework will be assigned at different times in class, typically students will be given time in class to begin (time permitting). If an assignment is not completed in class, or if it is to study and review information.
- Homework not completed/submitted day due will be first issued a score of 0.00/Missing. If turned in late (without prior speaking with teacher for an extension), a deduction of a minimum of one point from the assignment after grading.
- (Example: if a student has vocabulary definitions due and they fail to turn in the assignment by the end of class, it will be marked as 0.00/missing. If they then turn it in a following class and they have all the definitions complete which is a 10/10, they will earn a 9/10 due to the assignment being late.)

#### 4. Test / Quizzes:

- Pre and Post Tests will be taken using CDT to aid in measurement of growth, typically these will be taken close to the beginning and end of the course as possible. A period of two days will be set aside for testing (a Network Usage Agreement needs to be submitted to take, unless the Google Chrome books are available- where login to the network is not necessary and an application can be used), if a class finishes early we will move on, if at the end of two days a student needs more time then it will be up to them to work out a time to finish. This will be graded on whether the student has completed them.
- Chapter Exams and Final Exams (at end of the semester)-- Exams will be announced tentatively at the beginning of the chapter and/or one week prior. Each student will have an entire class period to take the exam. Please make good use of the time. If extra time is needed, it will be provided on the SAME day the test is given. You will be able to complete during study hall or at the end of the day.
- Vocabulary quizzes- These will be given at least once per chapter, to enhance subject knowledge. Typically announced at beginning of chapter/section or one week, or no less than three days notice will be given. (Note: vocabulary definitions will be collect on vocabulary quiz days)

#### **Absences:**

There is an absentee bin located just inside my door on the table. I try my best to place all papers given out in a student's absence in there. However, it is the STUDENT'S responsibility to find out what was missed. I will not track you down.

- If you are absent the day of a chapter review, or day prior to any test/quiz/project/etc. That has a due date the following day (day your return) I ask that you are prepared for class, unless you see me at the beginning of the day when you return (prior to your scheduled class) to make other arrangements.
- If you would like to have one day to make-up test/quiz/project/etc that was due the day of your return it is your responsibility to use your own time to make-up the assignment- either during a study hall, club period, or after school. If you do not make-up the test/quiz/project/etc the day after, you will earn a zero (unless other arrangement with me have been made).
- If your are absent on the day of the test/quiz/project/etc, you must complete a make-up on your own time, if not made up within one day of your return, you will earn a zero.

#### **Labs / Activities:**

At the appropriate times we may have labs or activities to further the understanding of the content on a particular subject. Occasionally announced ahead of time if specific lab attire is required. The Lab Safety Agreement must be followed, including appropriate behavior at all times. If a student has not submitted a Lab Safety Agreement they will be assigned an alternate assignment to be completed during class.

### **Extra Credit Opportunities:**

On each exam, I typically build in extra credit. In addition, there will be opportunities throughout the nine weeks. Please DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST WEEK of class to ask for help.

\*\*Please note -- extra credit is offered to all students, not on an individual basis. If you are not passing due to NOT turning in assignments or submitting assignments late, do NOT request extra credit.

### **Additional Information:**

I will do my best to enter grades on a weekly basis. Please check MMS routinely. If you have a question about a grade that was entered, do not hesitate to contact me. If an assignment was turned in late it will be graded after other assignments collect and turned in on-time are graded.

### **Class Expectations:**

1. Be Respectful...of yourself, your peers and staff.
2. Be Ready...sitting in your assigned seat, quiet when requested, things returned/put away before leaving the classroom.
3. Be Prepared...with pencil, book, planner, assignment, etc.
4. Follow...directions provided and Safety Agreement.

### **Cell Phone Usage:**

Unless otherwise notified, all cell phones must be placed out of sight, with ringers turned off. (in caddy provided in classroom)

- If a student is caught using a cell phone or it is not out of view, it will be confiscated and turned into the office. (if using pictures or video a student will earn an infraction automatically)
- If a student requests to leave my room during class their cell phone, if they have one, is to be left in the classroom (only exception if a student is leaving for an early dismissal or not be returning to my classroom for another reason). If a cell phone is not left, the student will earn an infraction automatically.

### **Leaving the Classroom:**

I am responsible for knowing where students are and what they are working on when they are assigned to my classroom and for that reason I have the following policy (exception will be given in emergency situation, such as an illness and need to go to bathroom immediately- can sort out after). Students will be instructed that in case of an emergency or drill they are to go to closest teacher and go with their class.

- Leave cell phone in classroom (unless directly instructed not to)
- Student must have their planner in class
  - Will request, giving reason (restroom, office, nurse, locker, etc.)
  - Will complete planner section for day (entering time and reason)
- Student must sign-out and sign-in on sheet provided
- Students are responsible for work missed while out.

**Daily Materials:**

Be prepared for class with the following materials, if there is a class where materials will not be needed students will be notified.

- Textbook (stays in classroom)
- Pencil (something to write with)
- Planner
- Assignment (if due)
- Positive attitude

**Tutoring Information:**

I am available to help any student who seeks it. I will be available after school from 2:30 until 3:00. Occasional, I may not be available, so I am requesting advance notice, if possible. In addition there will be other tutors available for students on set days (typically Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) during the first three nine week periods.

**Discipline:**

Procedures will be addressed according to the Blacklick Valley code of conduct, please become familiar. Typically students will be issued a single warning, and possibly a seat change and then a discussion with the student one-to-one and an infraction may be issued. Depending on the issue, students may be issued an automatic discipline referral.

**PLEASE RETURN the following sheet and keep the copy of the syllabus for your reference:**

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

Parent / Guardian Contact Information:

Parent (s) / Guardian (s) Names:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Please check your preferred method of contact)

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone (best contact number): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email (if available to use to contact):

\_\_\_\_\_

By signing below you have read and understand the requirements of the class you are scheduled for, and have clarified any questions you may have prior.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

Please let me know if there is any additional information you would like to provide concerning your student that would assist me. Feel free to use the space provided below, call or send me an e-mail. I am also available for to meet with you outside of the scheduled conferences upon request. I welcome an open, working relationship with parent(s)/guardian(s) and their child(ren). Together, we can make this year a successful one!