

Biology Syllabus 2015-2016
Wildwood Middle High School

Instructor: Mrs. Squire

Room: 2004

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Course Description: Biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. Throughout the year this course provides an opportunity for students to develop scientific process skills, laboratory techniques, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms. Students will explore biological science as a process, cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution and classification, diversity of living organisms and their ecological roles. An end of course test (EOC) will be administered in May, which covers objectives for both semesters.

Objectives/Goals:

- Teach students practical scientific skills, which they can use to investigate, study and explain the world around them.
- Give students a deeper understanding of the how biology impacts their daily lives.
- For each student to be successful on the Florida State Biology End of Course Assessment (EOC)

Grading: Grades will be broken down in three categories major assessments (55%), minor assessments (35%), and other (10%). The following shows a breakdown of what could be in each category:

- Major (55%)-Tests, Interactive Notebook (collected every Friday), 9 week major projects.
- Minor (35%)-Quizzes, Laboratory activities, Culminating activities
- Other (10%)- Daily grade, homework, classwork and active participation
- ★ **Laboratories**--are a mandatory part of this class. Laboratory reports are required on some labs.
- ★ **Major Projects** --Each nine weeks will be a required research project. Each project will include a handout of details, expectations, and grading. **Science Fair project** will be the first nine weeks project.
- ★ **Semester examination**--the semester exam in this class is cumulative in content

Supplies:

✧ *Composition Notebook (100sheets)* ✧ *pencils and pens* ✧ *highlighters and colored pencils*

Class Policies:

- Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date. Homework can consist of many different things. Some examples of homework assignments are keeping the Interactive Notebook up to date, finishing assignments that are not completed in class, studying for quizzes and tests, and working on projects. Late homework and projects are not accepted.
- Attendance is extremely important. If you are absent it is your responsibility to obtain any assignments you missed while you were gone.
- Makeup Work (including labs missed) due to absence will be handled on an individual basis. All work must be made up since the information will reflect student's grade and will be included on quizzes, tests, semester exams, and the Florida Biology EOC. Approved absences – you have one day for each excused absence to make up your work. This includes daily grades, quizzes, and test. Missed exams must be taken before or after school within the time allowed. If you are absent during a lab you must make special arrangements to come in before or after school to make up the lab or get an alternative assignment.
- Cheating/ Plagiarism: Cheating on a test or assignment will result in a grade of zero for all involved.

Classroom Expectations: (in order for optimum learning to be attained by **ALL** students the following expectations have been established)

1. **Be Prompt:** Students are expected to be in their seat and ready when the bell rings.
2. **Be Prepared:** Materials (Interactive notebook, pencil, and any other needed materials) must be brought to class each day.
3. **Be Polite:** Treat everyone with respect. Opinions and Ideas of others are important. Respect the property of the school and others. The laboratory or room must be clean at the end of the period before leaving. Follow the instructions given by the instructor, substitute or lesson.
4. **Be Positive:** Strive for excellence, always do your best and know you can be successful in anything you put your mind to.
5. **Be Purposeful:** Make what you do valuable to your personal growth and goals. Ask for help when needed.

All behavior will be consistent with the rules of Wildwood Middle High School. These can be found in the students handbook. All lab safety rules as stated in the Wildwood Middle High School Lab Safety Rules must be followed. You must sign and return in order to participate in labs.

Class Procedures and Routines:

▪ Entering the room

- Make sure all electronic devices are in your bag and turned off. They are not allowed in class.
- No food, gum or drinks are allowed in the classroom. Throw it out before entering.
- Quietly come into the room and get into your assigned seat, get ready for class and begin the bell work.
- Remain in your seat for the duration of class unless specifically directed otherwise.

▪ Tardy

- If you are not passed the classroom doorway when the tardy bell rings you are tardy.

▪ Assignments

- Agenda for the day including the bell work, lesson objectives and expectations, and homework will be posted on the board every day. Including due dates.

▪ During Class

- Success in all courses is more often determined by your attitude and work ethic, rather than your ability; therefore, I expect everyone to have a positive attitude and be willing to work for the entire class time (Bell to Bell).
- Everything you learned in Kindergarten has prepared you for this class. Make sure you listen and follow all directions. Make sure you raise your hand and wait to be called on to speak. Quiet mouths: using soft inside voices to speak. Use helpful hands and words. Make Smart Choices.
- Respect for others is important in the classroom as well as in life. I expect you to address me with respect and look at me and listen while I am talking. In return, I will do the same to you.
- Cooperative group work will be done on a daily basis. You are expected to work cooperatively with all group members and actively participate. Know your role. You will be graded on your role in the group.

▪ Leaving Class

- You must sign out correctly and take the appropriate pass when leaving the room. Restroom pass, student services, media center and nurse passes are found on the student book case. You must sign back in when you return. Only one person at a time is allowed to be out of the room. (Unless it is an emergency)

▪ End of class

- We work bell to bell. I dismiss the class, not the bell. Please continue to work until I inform you it is time to clean up and pack up. Remain seated until I dismiss the class. Do not get out of your seat.

▪ Fire Drills

- When the fire alarm sounds, leave all belongings and exit the classroom quickly without talking in an orderly fashion according to the classroom emergency exit plan.

If you choose to distract instead of enhancing our learning environment, you will be held accountable through the Wildwood Middle High School and Sumter County code of student conduct. Everyone deserves the best learning environment to be successful.

If you choose to enhance our learning environment, you will be rewarded not only with good grades, but also through other incentives determined by the instructor. Some incentives may include but not limited to positive referral, dropped quiz grade, and positive parent contact.

Keys for Success in Biology

Have a positive attitude! I am here to help you succeed, so feel free to ask me for help. I am available before and after school in my room. Ask lots of questions. If you are unclear about something from the textbook, lab, or from discussion, ask. Make sure that you understand how the lecture, homework, and labs interrelate. Labs and homework are designed to reinforce significant ideas from the text. Make sure that you see these connections. Start studying for tests early. By studying and reviewing each night you are not only helping to prepare for the test more effectively, you are also more prepared for class each day and any quizzes that may be given.

*Syllabus may be subject to change with instructor's discretion.

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read this course syllabus and understand the contents.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____