

FORSYTH COUNTY COURSE SYLLABUS

2015-2016



COURSE TITLE:	Biology		
TEACHER NAME:	Mrs. Rachel Collins	EMAIL:	rcollins@forsyth.k12.ga.us
ROOM:	West Hall Room 371	PHONE:	(770) 781-2264 EXT: 100371

Course Description: This curriculum allows students to become proficient in Biology and also includes more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry. A state mandated End of Course Test (EOCT) is required and counts **20%** of the student's overall course grade.

Standards: Course Standards can be found at www.georgiastandards.org or you can also find a link to them on the Forsyth County Schools website.

Learning Resources/Textbook(s):

With the emergence of technology as a tool for learning, South Forsyth High School will be utilizing various resources to assist with instruction, including ItsLearning, and interactive websites. In addition to these web based instructional tools, this course will also have a classroom set of textbooks. Should you feel that your child would benefit from having a textbook at home in addition to the classroom textbook, please contact your child's teacher.

Nowicki, Stephen. *McDougal Littell Biology*, 2008. Houghton Mifflin Company, Canada.
ISBN-13: 978-0-618-88830-6

Additional supplies: Pens, pencils, colored pencils, paper, **three-ring binder for BIOLOGY ONLY**, loose leaf paper, folders, notecards, and a portable USB drive to use to save work done in or out of class. A basic calculator and highlighter would also be useful.

Required Assignments: There will be at least 8 unit tests during the course as well as various performance based assessments that require writing, research, and creativity. The number of formative grades such as lab reports, article abstracts, quizzes, homework, journals, etc. will be determined along the course of the school year.

Units (these should be labeled on binder divider tabs):

1 – Intro to Biology	6 – DNA, RNA, & Processes
2 – Biochemistry	7 – Genetics
3 – Cells	8 – Evolution
4 – Energetics	9 – Kingdoms/Classification
5 – Cell Cycle/Reproduction	10 – Ecology

Availability for Extra Help: I am available during Instructional Focus on Wednesday's (this is a GREAT time for small group help; ask me for a pass!), or other times by appointment (before and after school- I will be in my classroom by 8:00 and will remain there until 4:00). My planning periods are 1st and 2nd period.

Makeup Work: All missed work and assessments are the responsibility of the student when they are absent from school. A student who is absent on the class day before a regularly scheduled assessment will be responsible for completing the assignment on the regularly scheduled day and time. Students who have been absent more than two consecutive days (including the assessment day) will be given five (5) school days to make up the assessment and/or other assignments. This does not include major projects, research papers, etc., where the deadline has been posted in advance. It is the student's responsibility to see the teacher before, or after, class to request or submit late assignments when absent. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period of time to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances.

Long-term projects must be turned in on the previously scheduled date. If a student is absent on that day, they must turn in the project the day they return to receive full credit. For every day late thereafter, their highest possible grade will be a 70. A course calendar and any handouts given out in class will be posted on ItsLearning. We will also utilize ItsLearning as a communication resource. Below is the website where these resources can be found:

Late daily assignments can be turned in for a possible grade of a 70 until the summative test on that unit. Once that unit test is over, no daily (formative) assessments will be accepted!

Grading Calculations:

Course Average = 40% (1ST Sem. Course Work) + 40% (2ND Sem. Course Work) + 20% EOCT or Final Exam
1ST & 2ND Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Grading Policy:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

** **Formative grades** are assignments such as homework, class work, quizzes, drafts or portions of essays, projects, research papers, and presentations. They provide practice while learning. These assignments, observations, and conversations are used to inform both the teacher and student about the learning process and lead to potential success on summative assessments. They count as 25% of each semester average.*

****Summative grades** are assignments/assessments such as unit tests, projects, essays, research papers, and presentations which may integrate multiple standards. These grades reflect student mastery of standards after the learning activity is completed and count as 75% of each semester average.*

****Work Habits** are behaviors that have the potential to increase academic achievement, promote lifelong learning, and foster personal accountability. (Grading Scale (1-3): 1= Does Not meet, **2=SUCCESSFUL!**, 3=Exceeds expectation)*

Responsibility (RE)

The student adapts to classroom practices.

1. Requires frequent redirection; strays off-task; disrupts learning environment; fails to follow class procedures.
- 2. Is a self-starter; remains on-task; asks questions for clarifications when needed; applies strategies for meeting learning goals; follows class procedures.**
3. Displays independent initiative; maximizes opportunities; solves problems.

Participation (PA)

The student pursues learning through active involvement.

1. Disengages from the learning environment; responds only to teacher prompts.
- 2. Engages in activities and discussions.**
3. Leads others to participate; explores new class ideas and approaches.

Assignment Completion (AC)

The student completes work by the designated time/date and according to directions.

1. Fails to complete assignments or submit work; struggles to follow directions.
- 2. Produces completed work on a consistent basis by the designated time/date; follows directions.**
3. Demonstrates new applications and examples of standard; exceeds assignment expectations; extends personal learning.



Interpersonal Skills (IS)

The student interacts with others to create a positive learning environment.

1. Lacks flexibility when working with peers; isolates self.
- 2. Works well with peers; listens and speaks respectfully; questions ideas rather than the person.**
3. Adjusts to a variety of classroom roles; mediates; influences others to learn.

Exam Exemptions:

****Any student desiring to exempt their final exam must have a 90 overall average in their yearlong course to exempt the final exam in that course. End-of-Course-Tests cannot be exempt.**