

Biology I Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Moser

Contact: jessica.moser@bvdsd.k12.pa.us or 814.749.9211 x207

Room: 207

Full Year Course

**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 in 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 the 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.

Class Meeting: Biology I

Monday - Friday, Period 1, 2 or 7, Room 207 & Lab 205

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30P - 3:00P, and Prep period 12:18P - 1:01P

Please note due to other duties or unexpected occurrences I may not be available, examples: delay in arrival, coverage or preparing materials during prep and unable to help. You are always welcome to stop by and see me at any time, I try and have an open door for students. If I am not in my room I will most likely be in the lab or running errand. In the case that I am busy, we can arrange to meet at another time. You should feel free to ask for as much assistance as is necessary to understand and appreciate the field of Biology. Or, if you want to just stop by, say hello is also welcome. This year will have virtual times that you may use a meeting link to access, unless in person requested (link will be found on Google Classroom & Google Calendar).

Required Materials:

- Text book: Glencoe – “Biology Living Systems”, Oram
- 3 ring binder (portfolio)
- Colored Pencils/Highlighter- may be borrowed as needed, see me.
- Earbuds (recommended for completing virtual labs or listening to videos, etc)
- Google Classroom (will need to sign in to classroom)
- ChromeBook (as provided and assigned by district)

Course Schedule:

Unit 1- The Cell

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

Unit 2- Genetics

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

Unit 3- History of Biological Diversity

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

Unit 4- Ecology

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

Grading Information:

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

1. Participation / Preparation:

- Students may earn participation points for being prepared for class, actively participating, following along, etc.

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 the 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 the 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.)
- Ongoing assignment for the year, DAILY, should review material from class- briefly reading through notes, chapter, handout(s), reviewing vocabulary at a minimum to stay current on the material from class. Would suggest making flashcards of vocabulary to practice, rewrite or re organize notes/material in the way that you prefer.

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 one day will be set aside for testing (a Network Usage Agreement needs to be submitted to take, unless 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 the day 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 and based on the amount of time one assignment. Students

will also need to complete a reflection on the CDT testing when scores are returned, this is to assist students in identifying areas of strength and need that they have with the material. Students have potential to earn extra credit as they improve on the CDT, no penalty for regression.

- 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.
- Quizzes- Will be given periodically, to enhance subject knowledge. Typically announced no less than two days notice will be given, unless it is a pop quiz.

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 there. However, it is the STUDENT'S responsibility to find out what was missed. I will not track you down. Keep in mind that attendance is critical to any course to aid in understanding the material, excessive absences may impede learning.

- 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.
- You will take your test/quiz/submit project/etc on the day you return. If you feel you did not score well you may request a retake that must be completed in a reasonable time agreed upon by the teacher. 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 on day/time agreed on, you will earn an original grade or zero (if not taken). Unless other arrangements with the teacher have been made prior.

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 year for students to elect to complete additional assignments. These additional assignments will be added to category and scored, not extra credit, increasing total points in that category. 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.

Students may choose to participate in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences, students will earn extra credit for completion of an independent science experiment and participation in the regional competition. Specific participation details, deadlines and forms to be completed, see PJAS link on teacher website.

Students may participate in PJAS (Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science), see teacher for additional information & check following teacher webpage for general information:

<https://www.bvsd.k12.pa.us/Page/1962> . By participating in PJAS students can earn points for extra assignments for completion of necessary paperwork, developing and conducting an experiment (must meet deadlines). Bonus points may also be earned for participation in attending the PJAS Regional Competition (Saturday, March TBA).

Additional Information:

I will do my best to enter grades on a weekly basis. Please check Focus 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 collected 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, chromebook, etc.
4. Follow...directions provided and Lab 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 the classroom or in their pocket)

- If a student is caught using a cell phone or it is not out of view, it may be confiscated and may be turned into the office. (if using pictures or video a student will earn a referral/detention 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 returning to my classroom for another reason). If a cell phone is not left, the student will earn an infraction automatically (no warning).
- During quizzes and tests students may be required to place their phone on the front table or in caddy until the quiz/test is complete for all students. Refusal to do so may result in infraction or loss in cell phone privileges in the classroom.

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 (exceptions will be given in an emergency situation, such as an illness and need to go to the bathroom immediately- can sort out after). Students will be instructed that in case of an emergency or drill they are to go to the closest teacher and go with their class.

- Leave cell phone in classroom (unless directly instructed not to)
- Students must have their planner in class (may use wooden pass for library, nurse, office or locker)
 - Will request, give reason (restroom, etc.)
 - Will complete planner section for day (entering time and reason)
- Students must sign-out and sign-in on sheet provided (if you do not complete properly may result in loss of privileges)
- Students are responsible for work missed while out. (if you need to make up, check with peer or teacher.)

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. In the lab following Lab Safety Agreement is mandatory, any breaking of rules (determined by the teacher's discretion) will result in the student earning a zero on lab (on all or part of lab) and automatic discipline referral.

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 (will let you know when it is needed)
- Pencil (something to write with), highlighters
- Planner- for restroom use pass/recording assignments
- Assignment (if due)
- Chromebook issued/assigned by district
- Positive attitude

Resources:

- My Teacher Website
 - Direct link to main page: <https://www.bvsd.k12.pa.us/Domain/339>
 - Direct link to Biology I specific page: <https://www.bvsd.k12.pa.us/Page/1966>
 - Link to copy of Lab Safety Agreement
 - Link to copy of Syllabus
 - Subtab of useful resource links
 - Link to key vocabulary that will be used during the course
 - Link to a Keystone Study Guide
 - Course Description
 - Textbook used
 - Student Responsibilities/How To Be Successful in Science
- Google Classroom will provide (each section will receive a specific code to login or invite via district email)
 - Classroom announcements and reminders
 - Resources provided
 - Copies of assignments, notes, rubrics
 - Video links
 - Virtual assignments
 - Other study resources
 - Additional practice, etc
 - Links to Google Meet meetings (if any)
 - Tentative schedule postings

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 during scheduled after school tutoring.

PLEASE RETURN the following sheet and keep a copy of the syllabus for your reference:
(Signed Syllabus paper with Lab Safety Agreement due September 11, 2020)

Student Name: _____

Course: Biology I

Parent / Guardian Contact Information:

Parent (s) / Guardian (s) Names:

Please check the one that applies the best for your student:

_____ My student has reliable internet access at home and computer to work on

_____ My student does not have reliable internet access at home and computer to work on and I understand that he/she may need to work during another time during/before/after school to complete/check on some online assignments (if not completed during class).

(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 on the back of form, separate sheet, call or send me an e-mail. I am also available to meet with you during a scheduled conference 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!