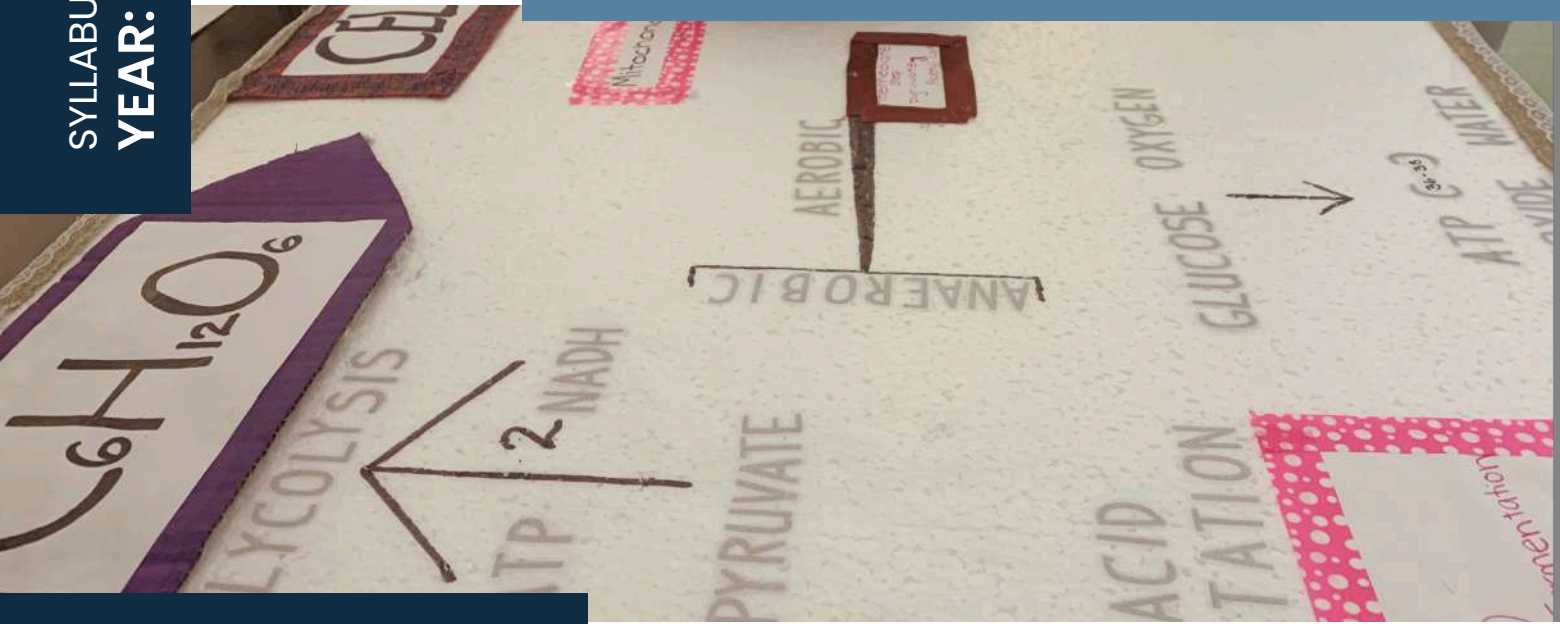


WELCOME BIOLOGY STUDENTS



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Meet Mr. Simmons
- Course Expectations
- Personal Electronics
- Grading & Mastery
- Scope and Sequence



My Classroom

Biology is the discipline dedicated to the exploration of life itself, encompassing the study of living organisms and the intricate interplay between these organisms and their environment.

By embarking on this academic journey, you have embraced a challenge that many would hesitate to undertake. It is important to acknowledge that there are individuals, both within and beyond our educational community, who may question your capacity to excel in this class. However, we shall prove them wrong. I have unwavering confidence that through diligent effort and unwavering determination, each and every one of you will find success and emerge equipped to confront the forthcoming challenges of your high school years with a profound sense of accomplishment. Rest assured, you possess the capabilities necessary to overcome any academic obstacles that may cross your path. Are you ready?

Contact and Intervention

My contact information is below:

- **Email:** matthewsimmons@hebisd.edu
- **Phone:** 817-399-3360-7565
- **Address:** 3191 W. Pipeline Rd, Euless, TX 76040
- **Room:** 715



Interventions will become necessary at some point throughout the year. Not knowing is sometimes a scary feeling. Staying in that place is where we get into trouble. Come see me.

- **M-Fri:** Mornings (7:30-8:15)
- **Thursday** afternoons until 4:30 pm

Communication:

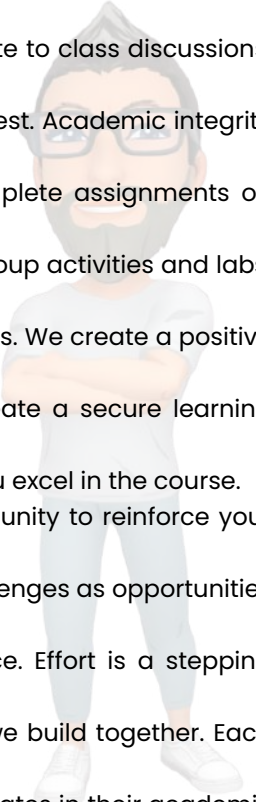
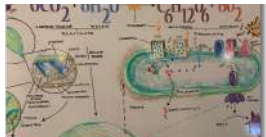
- **Remind** - code to be given on the first day to students
- **Weekly newsletter:** sent in email, students email, canvas, and remind
- **Weekly Email** to parents and students in Canvas
- **Weekly progress** report sent to parents.





Classroom Expectations

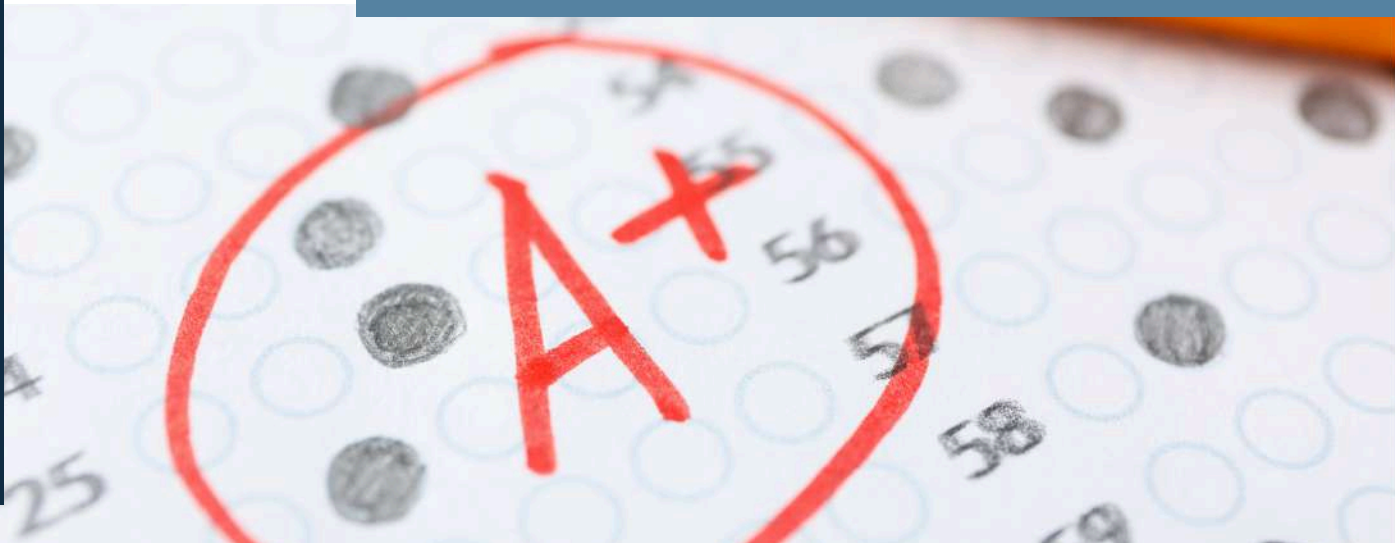
- **Embrace Respect:** Treat everyone in the classroom, including your peers and the teacher, with kindness and respect. Celebrate diversity and appreciate different viewpoints.
- **Be Punctual and Prepared:** Come to class on time, excited and ready to learn. Bring all your materials so you can fully engage in the lessons.
- **Participate Actively:** Share your thoughts, ask questions, and contribute to class discussions. Your unique insights enrich our learning community.
- **Value Academic Integrity:** Take pride in your work and always be honest. Academic integrity is the foundation of a strong educational journey.
- **Foster Responsibility:** Take ownership of your learning journey. Complete assignments on time and seek help when needed.
- **Embrace Collaboration:** Work together with your classmates during group activities and labs. Together, we can achieve amazing results.
- **Practice Positive Language:** Use words that uplift and encourage others. We create a positive environment through our words and actions.
- **Prioritize Safety:** In lab experiments, prioritize safety protocols to create a secure learning space.
- **Stay Organized:** Keep your biology materials well-organized to help you excel in the course.
- **Approach Homework with Enthusiasm:** View homework as an opportunity to reinforce your understanding and grow academically.
- **Embrace a Growth Mindset:** Believe in your abilities and embrace challenges as opportunities to learn and grow.
- **Celebrate Effort:** Recognize the value of hard work and perseverance. Effort is a stepping stone to success.
- **Treasure Classroom Community:** Treasure the learning community we build together. Each member brings unique strengths and contributions.
- **Foster a Supportive Environment:** Encourage and support your classmates in their academic endeavors. Together, we lift each other higher.



Personal Electronics

I'm really excited about our learning time this year! To make it even more awesome, I kindly ask that we all put away our cell phones, electronic devices, and earbuds for most of the class. This way, we can stay focused, engaged, interact with each other, and have a lot of fun together. But guess what? There might be some special activities or projects where we can use our personal devices. When those moments come up, I'll let you know and give you the chance to use them responsibly. Let's make this learning experience unforgettable, and thank you so much for helping me create an amazing class!





Grading & Mastery

- Celebrate your progress as you tackle Minor (quizzes, class assignments, etc.) and Major (tests, CBA's, Mock Exams, lab notebook, projects) assessments. Remember, each assignment is an opportunity for growth!
- On the path to success, remember that grades are not the sole focus. We prioritize your understanding and mastery of the concepts above all else.

Late Work Policy:

- I understand that life can get busy with academic, athletic, and familial obligations. If you encounter challenges with deadlines, please communicate with me, and we'll find a solution together.
- Let's work together to ensure that late work remains an exception, as punctuality is essential to a productive learning experience.

Make-up and Re-tests:

- If you miss any assignments or assessments due to absence, we'll provide ample time for you to catch up and excel. One tutorial session prior to re-taking an exam ensures that you are well-prepared.
- I encourage you to schedule re-takes and make-ups in advance, allowing us to plan effectively for your success.

Other Information:

- Reading assignments will enrich your learning experience, and all course materials will be well-organized in your binder.
- Lab notebooks will be a valuable record of your hands-on exploration, and each lab will have its own dedicated grade.
- Vocabulary quizzes will boost your comprehension before unit tests, empowering you with knowledge.
- Throughout the semester, engaging in major projects will deepen your understanding and creativity.

Feedback and Communication:

- Rubrics will guide your assessment, and my feedback will help you grow. Remember, it's the mastery of the concept that matters most.
- Parents, stay informed about your child's progress through the district's grading website. Feel free to reach out if you need assistance.
- Let's embark on this journey together with enthusiasm and dedication. Feel free to approach me with any questions or concerns; I am here to support your success. Keep this guide handy as a reminder of our positive classroom environment, where learning and growth thrive.

By the Numbers



Grade Percentages AdvAc

- **Minor** (quizzes, class assignments, etc.) - **40%**
- **Major** (tests, CBA's, Mock Exams, lab notebook, projects) - **60%**

Grade Percentages On Level

- **Minor** (quizzes, class assignments, etc.) - **50%**
- **Major** (tests, CBA's, Mock Exams, lab notebook, projects) - **50%**

Late Work Policy

- 1st day - **11 points**
- 2nd day - **21 points off**
- More than 1 week: It will be my discretion how many or few points will be given based on your normal performance in class. I understand students such as you are in advanced classes and have academic, athletic, and familial obligations and those things will be taken into consideration. But work being habitually late is not the expectation and therefore will not be tolerated.



Advanced Academics & EOC Biology

