BIOLOGY

Mrs. Amanda Starnes, Piedmont High School

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**Course Objective:**

Students will discover the basic characteristics of living organisms through scientific research procedures and investigations. They will demonstrate their knowledge through consistent coursework and with a score of “3” or higher on the End-Of-Course Exam.

**Honor Code:**

I expect students to be honest and that they conduct themselves with integrity and self-confidence in the classroom. Cheating, plagiarism, forgery, and any other displays of dishonesty will not be tolerated. I will uphold this policy for all classroom assignments and interactions. Any violation of this policy will be an automatic forfeit of that assignment’s grade.

**Materials & Supplies Needed:**

* A 1- subject spiral notebook (70+ pages) - one with a plastic cover vs a cardboard one will be more durable!
* Earbuds/Earphones that connect with school laptop
* Pencils, pens, highlighters
* Individual tape rolls + glue sticks

**Grading:**

I grade on a POINTS system. Each assignment will be graded out of a set amount of points and that amount will vary for each assignment. A student’s grade on any assignment is the points earned divided by the total possible points, multiplied by 100%. The same is true for each six weeks grade. The final exam (EOC) will be worth 25% of their final grade. Students must score a Level 3 or higher on this exam to receive credit for Biology. **ALL** students must pass Biology in order to graduate. Be on the lookout for extra credit opportunities each six weeks.

**Interactive Notebooks:**

Students are required to maintain a neat and well organized notebook of all class materials, notes, and handouts. To help students organize their notebooks, I will instruct students where to include things in their notebooks. This notebook will be graded during each unit.

**\*\*Tutoring is available upon request as needed and every Thursday with one of the designated Biology teachers. We will alternate Thursdays, so be sure to check with me to see who will be staying or check the calendar on my door.\*\***

**What to do if you are absent: MAKE UP WORK!**

Students will be given 3 days to complete missed work due to absences. (Extended absences will be managed on a case by case basis.) All notes and assignments will be uploaded into the class Canvas page that will be shared with all students. When a student is out, they need to see me personally to receive assignments and then use the Canvas page to complete them.

**If a student misses a test, they must make the test up within 5 school days either before or after school. If a student fails to meet this deadline, they will be given a zero.**

**Unit Calendars:**

For each unit, I will upload to Canvas a unit calendar that will detail what we will do in class each day, what each night’s homework assignment is, and when we will have a quiz and/or test. These should be referred to regularly.

**Homework:**

Homework is given 2-3 times per unit and should not require more than 15-20 minutes. You will know your homework assignments at the beginning of the unit (see Unit Calendars!) and you can work ahead if necessary.

**Classroom Rules & Consequences:**

1. Be on time! If you are late, you will be sent to get a tardy slip.
2. Be prepared for class everyday with your notebook, something to write with, and your work!
3. Show respect for yourself, others, and my room.
4. Remain seated until I dismiss you. The bell does NOT dismiss you.
5. Do your best and achieve!

1st offense: verbal warning and redirection

2nd offense: Parent contact

\*\*\*Students will be referred to administration and/or ISS for repeated and chronic breaking of these rules or school rules.

**STUDENTS AND PARENTS:**

PLEASE REVIEW THE ATTACHED SAFETY CONTRACT IN ADDITION TO THIS SYLLABUS. PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THE INFORMATION FORM ACKNOWLEDGING THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE DOCUMENTS.

PARENTS, PLEASE ALSO PROVIDE YOUR PREFERRED CONTACT INFORMATION.

**In addition, there will be times in the course where I will use videos/movies to support our curriculum and prompt discussions of course concepts. These may include (but not limited to) *Gattaca* (PG-13) & *Lorenzo’s Oil* (PG-13). Please indicate on the parent signature form if you would prefer your child not view this videos.**

PARENTS: All course assignments, notes, and activities will be updated in our Canvas page. Your child should be able to show and provide you with access to all course documents.