

BIOLOGY CLASS SYLLABUS

Teacher: Kathryn Kelchner,
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Objective: Biology affects our everyday lives in our habitats, health, and even hobbies. Biology is such an interesting field of science because it includes chemistry, physics, ecology, paleontology, psychology, sociology, and medicine. It is my goal to incorporate all those fields as we explore life processes. We will evaluate life from the cellular to the population level and beyond. A basic understanding of scientific procedures will be developed through labs and observations. Students will appreciate their impact on the world around them and vice versa. It is my hope that an appreciation for the Creator of life and all its systems will grow out of this study.

Class Website: www.kelchnerbiology.weebly.com

I will keep the website updated with class notes, handouts, assignments, helpful links and test preparation materials. This **is not** to substitute for attendance or paying attention in class. However, if you are absent or find you are missing materials when you are at home, it is a way for you to not fall behind. If I find students are abusing the benefit of my posting notes on the website, I will discontinue this practice.

Grading:

Tests and Quizzes	35%	Labs	30%
Class work & Participation	15%	Homework	20%

All tests and quizzes will be graded on a point scale. That is, tests will be worth approximately 100 points and quizzes worth less. I will give you an updated progress report on your cumulative grade each time I return a graded test. If you want an updated report before that, ask and I will get it for you.

Unless told otherwise, to receive credit for homework, you must have it turned in on the day it is due. Homework is a chance for you to practice skills and information we are learning; tests are to prove you know it.

There will be several projects assigned during the course of the semester. They will be graded as tests toward the cumulative grade. All written reports must be turned in using turnitin.com.

Work turned in late will receive a 20% penalty for the first day late and 10% on the second. In other words, if you turn something in a day late, the best you could get on it is an 80%, 2 days late - 70 %, after 2 days, late work will not be accepted.

Please keep all work until the end of the semester. Not only can you use previous work to study for cumulative exams, if somehow a mistake happens and I do not have a grade recorded, you will be able to show me that you did in fact turn the work in & it was graded and I will correct my error in the grade book. However, with out the proof of the graded work, I cannot change a zero.

Extra Credit: Yes, you can receive extra credit. For each article related to Biology that you *read and summarize*, you will receive 2 bonus points on the next test (maximum 5 points on any single test). If the article is from a current topic we are studying, you will receive 4 bonus points (maximum 8 points) on the next test. Articles must be from newspapers, journals, or legitimate scientific magazines. Source and date must be on the article somewhere - they will be hung on a bulletin board in the classroom. Articles must be current (no more than 6 months old). To summarize, answer these questions: 1) What is this article about? 2) How does it relate to biology and/or what we are studying about. 3) What is one new thing I learned or can apply to my life from the article?

Materials:

Everyday--textbook, 3 ring binder, loose leaf paper, 1 non-spiral notebook, (black/blue) pen or pencil. I am not requiring a lot of supplies, but would appreciate it if you would contribute a box of tissues to the classroom supply.

Absences:

I will follow all policies in the Handbook regarding absences and make up work. **If you are absent (and it is excused), it is your responsibility to miss work covered while you were gone.** This may be done by getting information from a classmate or by checking the class website. In an effort to assist you, any assignments/ work handed out will be in a file bin in the classroom waiting for you upon your return.

If you are absent 3 or more days (and it is excused), ask and I will be happy to make a packet of materials for you of the work missed which you may pick up upon your return or from the office. If you know in advance you will be absent (and it is excused) **and** you notify me, I will do my best to prepare work for you ahead of time, but may not have all the materials at that time. I will let you know if the packet is complete or missing material, but it is still your responsibility to check upon your return that you have received everything from me. In either case, if you would like me to gather materials for you, please contact me via e-mail or the school office no later than 2 days in advance.

Class Content:

General Science/Laboratory Skills
Basic Biochemistry
Ecology, Energy Flow
Cells, Photosynthesis, Respiration
Genetics, DNA, RNA

Overview of Kingdoms
Plant Classes, Structures, & Adaptations
Human Anatomy/Physiology & Health Issues
Evolution and Classification
Bioethics

Classroom Expectations:

- Come to class prepared. When the bell rings you are to be seated, assignments completed, homework turned in, supplies ready.
- Respect - *other students*...listen when they speak; *property*...follow all rules for lab and school equipment; *your teacher*...pay attention and TAKE NOTES; and *yourself*...always try your best!
- All non-educational equipment (iPods, cell phones, personal belongings) are to stay out of my view (and out of your hands) during class time. I will take them without warning and you may retrieve them at the end of the day. Refer to the handbook regarding demerits for these offenses.
- I will try to leave time for questions at the end of each class period. It is a good idea to jot them down in your notes so you don't forget to ask them. If you are having trouble keeping up or getting a concept and class does not provide enough time to help, I will be available after school during the activity period.

PCHS Honor Code

The PCHS Honor Code is based on the premise that PCHS students will not cheat, lie, or steal, nor tolerate those who do. The following expectations will apply:

- **Tests and Quizzes:** All work must be performed individually using only the resources specifically authorized by the teacher.
- **Lab Reports:** All work must be performed by the student or students submitting the report. Students will generally be assigned to a group for Lab work. Students or students in a group may work cooperatively with one another or with other groups but their lab report may not be a copy of some other student's or group's work unless a joint report is specified.
- **Homework assignments:** Students are encouraged to complete homework assignments cooperatively with other students, teachers, parents, mentors, and tutors as a means to enhance the learning and mastery of the process. By their nature, homework assignments are "open book." **On the other hand, the mere copying of another's work for submission and grading is prohibited by the Honor Code.**

INTEGRATED HONORS BIOLOGY

Mrs. Kelchner

All students interested in being classified Honors in Biology must notify me during the first week of class. Prospective Honors students must have an 89/B average in all components of the class by the completion of the first progress report to be enrolled as an Honors Biology student for the term. If the student does not meet this milestone, then the student will no longer be considered as an Honors Biology student. The grades will not be recalculated if a student is dropped as an Honors student.

Honors Biology students are expected to meet all requirements of the Regular Biology class. In addition, these students will be given tests that include not just content, but also application. Lab reports should reflect knowledge of application. Additional homework questions which require greater depth of thought or integration of concepts will be assigned. Finally, Honors students will be required to read one book in each half of the semester. These are books of the teacher's choosing and students are required to answer and turn in a set of questions that go with the book. The books are of a variety of genres, but all are related to some aspect of biology. The specifics about choices of books and questions will be covered after the deadline for enrolling in Honors Biology. The current list of books currently includes:

Double Helix, by Nancy Werner

Peeps, by Scott Weterfield

Hot Zone, Richard Preston

A Demon in the Freezer, Richard Preston

Last Chance to See, Douglas Adams and Mark Cawardine

Eva, by Scott Peterson

Additional books may be added during the semester if the teacher finds and reads additional appropriate ones.

