

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 homework, 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. Grades are entered as raw scores, not percentages. I will usually post current grades each weekend on my website.

Please see attached sheet which explains my homework policy.

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.

I will not accept work that does not have your name, date, and assignment or that is not stapled together.

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 for notes. All lab sketches must be done in PENCIL. You will need colored pencils and a glue stick periodically. If you would like to label these items and keep them in the classroom, I will provide a space for you to do so.

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 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	Overview of Kingdoms
Basic Biochemistry	Plant Classes, Structures, & Adaptations
Cells, Photosynthesis, Respiration	Human Anatomy/Physiology & Health Issues
Genetics, DNA, RNA	Evolution and Classification

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.
- This class moves quickly and actively. I will deduct points from your participation grade for not paying attention or distracting others (including me). If you are confused about any aspect of this class, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to come to me for clarification.

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. Honors students will be required to write formal lab reports for some laboratory experiences. Additional homework questions which require greater depth of thought or integration of concepts may 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 Westerfield

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.

Parents and students,

Please read this to understand my homework policy.

I give you homework to practice skills and generally, we go over it in class the following day. Therefore, unless told otherwise, I will not grade homework for correctness. You will, however, be given a grade for its completion.

All assignments, homework included, are due at the start of class on the date due. I will not accept papers after I have called for all homework to be turned in. If you need to go to the library to print out an assignment, it is considered late.

On homework with a one day completion time:

- You will be given a 5 or a 0. A 5 is given for having it ready for me at the start of class and COMPLETELY done. A zero is given for not having it completed at the start of class and/or only partially completing it.
- Since we go over homework in class, these assignments are due on the date assigned and *may not be turned in late*, unless you were absent the day it was assigned or due.
- If you are unable to understand or complete an assignment, you may have your parents sign the assignment indicating such and you will be given a ONE DAY EXTENSION to complete it. This signature must be on your assignment at the time I check homework. It is your responsibility to remember to turn this in the following class day.
- There is really no reason to not have something to turn into me at the start of class (either the assignment or a signature) except that you just forgot to, or chose not to, do it.
- If I feel this policy is being abused, I will call your parent and possibly remove this privilege.

On homework and assignments with more than one day completion time:

- I will follow the PCHS policy for sophomore level courses which is:

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.

I have read the syllabus and homework policy. I understand them both.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____