



Sequoia Charter School
Course Syllabus – Biology

Course Information:

Period: 2 & 4
Class Location: Bldg 3 Rm 304
E-Mail: vschmitz@edkey.org

Teacher Information:

Name: Ms. Victoria Schmitz
Phone: 480-649-7737 ext. 10304
Office Hours: After school

Course Description:

Students in Biology will examine Scientific Methods (Inquiry), Ecology, Cells, Heredity, and Evolution. You will also be developing skills as a scientist by reading, writing, and learning more about the scientific method while conducting hands-on lab experiments. Finally, there are several life skills embedded into the class; they include, responsibility, cooperation, collaboration, compromise, organization, and effective communication.

Course Competencies/ Learning Objectives:

Students who successfully complete Biology will be competent in the following areas:

- Making observations, asking questions, formulating hypothesis, and designing experiments to answer questions
- Presenting scientific information in an academic/professional style designed to be read and critiqued by fellow scientists (students)
- Using foundational scientific knowledge to understand complex concepts and unknown situations

Attendance:

Attendance is vital to academic success. We expect students to attend school every day so that they will have the greatest opportunity to have a successful academic year. A student who has 10 absences (excused or unexcused) from a class within a semester may be withdrawn from the class. The student may lose credit for that class, but may recover the credit by taking the class on-line or in a traditional class setting the following school year.

Online Grade Book:

Did you know that you can access your child's grades and assignments? Parents and students should monitor grades regularly by accessing the online grade book, Powerschool. Parents will be assigned a confidential access code to Power School that will allow them to see your child's grades, assignments, and attendance in each class. To take advantage of this powerful tool, parents should go to <http://edkey.powerschool.com> and enter their child's ID and password. You can receive your child's ID and password from the front office.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Arrive to class on time and be seated quietly.
2. Begin working on bell work.
3. No food or drinks (with the exception of water,) is allowed in the classroom.
4. No personal grooming during class.
5. When leaving the classroom, (for ANY reason,) sign out on clipboard near the door.
6. Each student is responsible for cleaning up his/her work area each class period.
7. Student are expected to wear appropriate safety attire on designated lab days.
8. No electronic devices are to be used in class unless instructor gives permission for instructional purposes.

Grades and Scale:

Below 60% is considered "Incomplete." An "incomplete" signifies that a student has not mastered the essential standards or requirements of the course and must re-take it.

Percentage	Grade
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
0% - 59%	F

Weight scale:

- Class participation / attendance 5%
- Homework: 5%
- Projects / labs: 30%
- Classwork: 20%
- Quizzes /Test: 25%
- Final Exam: 20%

Important: If you are having trouble with this class, seek help immediately. If you wait till the end of the marking period, it most likely will be TOO LATE to receive the proper amount of help to influence your grade.

Classroom Participation / Attendance:

- **Bell work:** With the exception of Wednesday, students are considered “present” when daily bell work is completed. These assignments are graded by fulfilling two requirements: students have written the question and have demonstrated attempt to answer the question.
- **Binder and Materials:** Students cannot achieve success without possessing the necessary materials for this course. Students are expected to bring a binder (expectations outlined under **Class Requirements**) and writing utensils

Homework: Assignments will be reviewing information covered in class. Students are expected to complete each assignment every night as these will help them retain covered topics in class, prepare students for the next day’s materials, and aid in studying for exams.

Projects / Labs: Students in this course are expected to complete projects and labs based upon scientific standards. The expectations of each corresponding project/lab will be outlined and given prior to due dates.

Classwork: Assignments will vary depending on the concepts covered each day. This encompasses individual and group work that will reinforce daily lessons and allow application of concepts.

Quizzes / Tests:

- **Quizzes:** We will be having quizzes regularly to check for understanding. These quizzes will be approximate 5 – 15 questions. Questions may range from multiple-choice, fill in the blank, or short-ended questions. If the student is absent, they will make-up the quiz immediately following their return.
- **Exams:** There will be an exam at the end of each unit. There will be exam reviews the day before each exam. It is in the student’s best interest to pay attention to these reviews as the concepts covered on the exam will be discussed. Questions will be combinations of multiple-choice, fill in the blank, computations, and short-ended.

Tardy:

Students are encouraged and expected to be in their class on time. A tardy is defined as “not being in an assigned seat when the bell rings”. If a student is tardy six or more times in a five-week period, he/she will be assigned to Behavior Intervention Program (BIP) by administration.

Suspensions:

If a student is suspended, he/she may not make up the ‘day to day’ assignments. However, if there is a major test, project, or paper due during the suspension the student must still make up those assignments. Sequoia’s late/missing work policy will be upheld for these assignments as well.

Class Requirements:

Students are expected to submit assignments on time. If it is turned in late, the highest possible grade will be 70%. If they are absent, they will have an equal number of days to make-up the assignment. If an assignment is not submitted within 2 weeks, a student will be given a failing grade for the assignment.

Materials: 1 or 2” Binder with tabs, pencils, and calculator

Please go over this with your parents/guardians, as the student and the parent/guardian are required to sign and return before **August 17, 2017**.

The signature portion will be counted as a homework assignment.

My student _____ has gone through the Syllabus for Biology. We are both aware of the expectations of the class.

Please Print Parent Name _____

Parent preferred contact method: Email Phone

- Email address: _____
- Phone number: _____

Parent Signature

Student Signature