**Biology 1-2P**

Terra Linda High School

Fall/Spring 2012/2013

Mr. Kent Morales

Room # 205

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**Course Description**

The Biology course is a one-year survey course which covers the major concepts in biology. This course covers cell theory, basic chemistry, energy reactions in living systems, genetics, evolution, ecology, and the basic physiological systems found in plants and animals. The course is laboratory oriented and serves as a prerequisite for physiology.

**Goals/Course Outline**

1. Introduction

We will study the scientific method, lab safety, and the metric system.

1. Biochemistry

Understanding how living things work requires us to know about chemical reactions that take place in our cells. We will spend time learning about atoms and molecules that make up our body (carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, etc.).

1. Cells

All organisms are composed of cells. Students will develop an appreciation for the structure and function of the cell. They will learn the structure and function of different organelles within a cell. We will also look at the movement of material in and out of a cell.

1. Photosynthesis and Respiration

We will learn how cells get their energy to carry out their numerous functions.

1. Mitosis and Meiosis

Organisms must grow, repair damage, and reproduce. Students will have a better understanding of how cells are able to carry out these functions.

1. DNA

Students will learn the structure of DNA and how it is used to make protein.

1. Genetics

We will study how traits are passed from parents to offspring. We will spend time looking at the history and mechanisms of inheritance. We will study human traits and genetic disease. We will also spend time on current issues involving genetics and the role of biotechnology.

1. Evolution

Living things change over time. Students will be introduced to the theories of evolution and how natural selection is the mechanism that causes change over time.

1. Ecology

We will study how living things interact with their environment and each other. We will also touch on current issues and the impact of humans on other organisms.

1. Human Anatomy

Students will be introduced to the different systems within their body and how they function.

**Course Expectations**

It is expected that all students will pass the course and enjoy the process. This can be accomplished by:

* respecting the classroom, the students, the school and the teacher
* bringing materials to class each day – handouts, paper, pencil or pen, book
* being responsible about turning in your homework and lab reports on time
* being in class and in your seat when the bell rings
* being open and relaxed about learning new concepts and techniques
* working in cooperative groups with an open, hardworking and friendly attitude
* helping others

Good attendance should be a primary goal – you cannot learn the material if you are not here.

**Other Appropriate Classroom Behavior**

* It is expected that you will use the restroom and get water between classes.
* Food and beverage are not allowed in the room. This is a state law, food and liquids cannot be consumed in a laboratory.
* When you need help, first review the directions in your handout. Ask the people on either side of you for help. Then raise your hand. I will be around to help as soon as I can.
* No personal grooming in class. DO NOT wear hats.
* Cell phones and portable music devises cannot be used in the classroom. They will be confiscated immediately and turned over to the assistant principal.
* You will be expected to participate fully in all laboratories.
* Working in cooperative lab groups is expected. Full participation and a good attitude is necessary.
* All work will be submitted in full sentences - capitals, verbs and punctuation are required.
* Your vocabulary should be appropriate for the classroom and a college prep class.

**Evaluation and Grading Procedures**

* Grading for this class will be based upon the quality of your work. It will be composed of laboratory activities and laboratory reports, quizzes and tests, homework, participation, timeliness and attendance.
* There will be a semester exam, given at the end of the first semester. It will be cumulative and comprehensive and be composed of material from the lectures and labs. This is a two-hour exam covering the full semester including lab work. This exam will be 20% of the semester grade.
* At the end of the second semester there will be a Final exam covering the whole year of study, including both lecture and lab information. This exam will be 20% of the semester grade.
* Late work will be accepted. It will be marked down 10% the first day it is late and 20% anytime thereafter.
* Grades will be updated weekly when possible and placed on the school web site.

**Letter grades will be given in the following manner:**

A- 90%

B- 80%

C- 70%

D- 60%

* Attendance and tardies will be calculated in the grade. You must be in class, on time to learn.
* Late test or quiz policy. After an absence, you are required to take a quiz the day you return to class. The time to take quizzes is before school, break, lunch, 7th period or after school. During class is not an alternative because then you miss more of class. You will not be reminded that you have missed a quiz. Every day the quiz is not taken will result in a decrease in quiz grade of 20%. If the corrected quiz is returned before taking it, an automatic grade of zero will be assigned. If a long absence is necessary due to illness talk to Mr. Morales to arrange another schedule.
* Honesty is the best policy. Cheating and copying will not be tolerated. The school policy on cheating will be strictly adhered to. It is to be understood, that copying and letting your work be copied are both considered cheating and will be dealt with in the same manner. If a cell phone is observed out during a quiz or test it will be considered cheating and confiscated. If any person is caught cheating on a retake test or quiz, the retake policy will be suspended for ALL students.

1st Offence. The work in question will be given a zero. Your parents will be called and a notice will be sent to the office, other faculty and the counselors with the nature of the cheating offence, the number of points and the date. You will not be allowed to make up the assignment. I will write no letters of recommendation for college or scholarships.

2nd Offence. A zero will be given on the assignment. You will be sent to the office with the recommendation that you be removed from the class.

**Participation**

Participation is 10% of your grade. Good citizenship is an important component of the participation grade.

1. Students need to:

· Come to class on time,

· Come to class prepared with their handout and writing implement,

· Follow directions,

· Participate fully in labs and other class activities

· Not disrupt class

1. Failure to meet any of these expectations will result in loss of participation points, according to the following guidelines. One percent of your grade will be deducted for each of these items, up to a maximum of the 10 percent total.

· Tardy

· Failure to participate in actively in a lab or failure to clean up after a lab

· Failure to participate in class activities or work during work periods

· Disrupting class

* Use of cell phone, portable music devise or texting in class. The electronic device will be confiscated and taken to the Assistant Principal’s office. For the second infraction, a parent or guardian must accompany the student for its return.

**Communication**

The quickest and most effective way to communicate with me is through **E-mail**. E-mail will always have a 48 hour turn around (unless I am on vacation or sick). You may also schedule an appointment with me. Please notify me a couple of days in advance so that schedules can be coordinated. Voicemail is also available through the school, but E-mail is very much preferred.

**Dear Parent/Guardian:**

**The above guidelines will be enforced to ensure the safety and success of every student. It is my goal and should be the goal of every student to provide an atmosphere that is suitable for learning and fun.**

**Mr. Morales,**

**I have read the above classroom guidelines and student expectations. I understand the information and will do my best to support my child in his/her learning.**

**Parent/Guardian signature: Date:**

**Student’s name (print):**

**Student signature:**