



Basha High School
AMS 8
Course Syllabus
2022-2023

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Pre-AP Biology/8th Grade Science with Mr. Davitt! Biology is a laboratory science designed to provide a comprehensive survey of the life sciences, in a manner in which critical thinking skills are used to study all forms of life. Emphasis will be placed on facilitating student research both inside and outside the classroom. Biology is an exciting and challenging field that is in a continuous state of change and technological advancement. We will explore connections that exist between science, technology, and the world around us. This course integrates additional problem solving and reasoning skills as well as laboratory and field research skills. This course will also have an extensive writing component for developing scientific literacy. This course is designed to prepare the student for AP Biology.

TEXTBOOKS

- The Living World, 4th or 5th Edition, by George B. Johnson
- You will also be responsible for the supplemental readings handed out in class.

MAJOR THEMES

- Cell Structure and Function
- Cellular Reproduction
- Genetics & Biotechnology
- Ecological Principles
- Biological Evolution
- Energy, Matter, and Organization
- Vertebrate Dissection (Major human systems)
- Statistics
- Biochemistry

STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

Each student will be required to complete a scientific research project on a topic of his or her choice but is subject to the instructor's approval. Students may work alone or in teams of two or three. Topics will be researched in the first few weeks of class. Some class time will be arranged to work on these projects, but the majority of the project is to be completed outside of class. Students will write a paper on their research project.

RECOMENDED MATERIALS

1. A Binder
2. Comprehension Notebook (for notes)
3. Student Planner
4. Pencil/Pen/Paper
5. Calculator
6. Dry Erase Marker
7. *If you have a cell phone with browser (internet) function, we will use it in class for review and reinforcement games.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Cell phones, I-pods/MP3 players, or other electronic devices should be used appropriately during class (they will be taken on the first offense).
- Excused absent work must be turned in within a timely manner – see details below.
- Be prepared for class when the bell rings, not running through the door (running is dangerous for some people).
- Have all of your required materials in class please.
- Come to class everyday prepared with a positive attitude and ready to learn!
- Be respectful and treat others/property the way you would like to be treated.

- Profanity will not be tolerated.
- No food or drink (except for water) in the classroom.

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

(At the discretion of the instructor based on the seriousness of the offense)

1. 1st time – Warning
2. 2nd time – Contact with parents
3. 3rd time – Administrative referral

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Basha High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

CONFERENCE

Conference period will be on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:19 - 9:44. During this time students are only allowed out of the classroom if they have a pass from another teacher or colored club passes. The library is not available during conference. Students should use this time to study or read.

GRADING POLICY

Quarter grades will be calculated from the student's test scores, quizzes, lab reports, homework, projects, presentations, and class participation. Grades are based on cumulative points per quarter and calculated into a percentage.

Letter grades are based on the following percentages:

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

Semester grades are calculated as follows:

First Quarter = 40% Second Quarter = 40% Final Exam = 20%

Your grade each quarter will be approximately composed as follows:

Exams and Quizzes: **50%**
Graded Work: **30%**
Completion Work: **20%**

**Parents can access their child's grades and assignments by going to the school's website and clicking on Parent Connect. Students' information is only accessible by using an individualized password assigned by the school. Parents may contact office personnel/counselor for their child's password.

Tutoring is available after school, during conference hour, or by appointment. Plagiarized work will be subjected to consequences. This applies to all parties involved.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY

Tardy:

You must be prepared for class before the bell rings or you will be marked tardy. The following are the consequences for the first five tardies:

- 1-2 times tardy: Warning
- 3 times tardy: Parent contact

After 3 (on the 4th tardy), you will be referred to the office.

Attendance:

On the 10th absence (excused or unexcused), the student **may** be removed from the class (and consequently fail the class). This is a state law.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

Absent Work:

- It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed work. Ask a friend, consult my calendar posted online, and/or ask me at an appropriate time.
- Papers from the past weeks of class are left out on the table near my desk.
- Long-term assignments given before an absence are still due on the original due date.
- Many labs will consist of consumable materials, so timely make-ups are imperative. Labs must be made up after school, by appointment, within 1 week, or they will be considered late.
- If the student has an excused absence they have as many days as they were gone in order to turn in the work missed, or it will be considered late.

Late Work:

- Late work will be accepted for half credit the day after the assignment is originally due. After that, late work is not accepted.

HOMEWORK

Unless otherwise notified, homework is due at the beginning of the next class period.

AMS SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- Since we are in the C building, if you have to get a drink or go to the bathroom, you have to go with another student. Try to limit leaving the classroom as much as possible to avoid this.