

Perry High School: Biology

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Biology! The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the basic principles of the study of life, while acquiring analytical science skills. We will accomplish this through a variety of fun & interesting activities. Below you will find a list of the topics we will cover throughout each semester of the school year.

FALL SEMESTER	SPRING SEMESTER
The Scientific Process	Meiosis / Cell Reproduction
Ecology & Environmental Issues	Genetics & Biotechnology
Cells & Cellular Processes	Nucleic Acids
Bioenergetics	Evolution / History of Life
	Classification of Living Things

*Human body systems will be spiraled through the entire year's curriculum

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Google Classroom will be used as the class website & will provide needed resources throughout the year.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Class Notebook: 3 ring binder organized with dividers must be maintained at all times
2. Paper
3. Pens & pencils
4. Highlighters

GRADING POLICIES

Your grade will be accessible through Infinite Campus
(<https://campus.cusd80.com/campus/portal/chandler.jsp>).

Semester grades will be calculated on an 80/20 formula.

The grading scale is 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 59% = no credit earned.

Grades for the course will be computed based on a weighted average of your scores in the following categories:

Assessments (Tests & Quizzes)	50%
Classwork & Labs	40%
Homework	10%

COURSEWORK

1. Tests & Quizzes: Assessments will be given on a regular basis to ensure students are keeping pace with content.
2. Homework: All assignments are carefully chosen to enhance subject comprehension.
3. Laboratory Work: Several labs will be conducted throughout the year. Lab write-ups include both informal & formal write-ups. Formal labs will be due one week after completion of the lab.
4. Participation: Students are expected to pay attention during class & be prepared to participate in their learning.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. Late Work: Homework will be collected at the beginning of the period on the due date & any work turned in after that time will be considered late. Late work is not accepted & will not receive credit. However, students will receive three Puma Passes per semester that will allow them to turn in one assignment the following class period after the due date. Unused Puma Passes may be submitted at the end of the semester as 5 points of extra credit each.

2. Missed Work: “I was absent” is not an excuse for missing an assignment. The class website will be updated with the agenda & links to the missed work. You have the equivalent of the number of the days you missed to make-up missed assignments. Missed labs may require an alternative written assignment. Missed work due to an excused absence must be made up after school. Obtaining missed work is the responsibility of the student. Missed assessments (quizzes or tests) will be made up during the class period on the day the student returns.
3. Cheating: Students are expected to demonstrate honesty & integrity while in attendance at Perry High School. Giving aid, receiving aid or observing aid being given on any assignment is considered dishonest. Copying homework is cheating & zero credit is given for plagiarized work. Please note that in addition to your grade dropping, NHS will also be notified.
4. Attendance: It should be expected that with such a rigorous course, any absence from class would be discouraged. We cover an extensive amount of material each day, of which some assignments cannot be fully made up. Any material missed due to an unexcused absence will receive no credit. A.R.S. §15-803 (B) states that absences may be considered excessive when the number of absent days exceeds ten percent of the number of required attendance days prescribed in A.R.S. §15-802. Ten percent equates to nine (9) days of absences per semester regardless of whether they are excused or unexcused. Students with excessive excused absences will be required to provide medical documentation to remain in class & excuse any further absences. If additional absences occur, & medical documentation is not provided, the student will be referred to administration.
5. Tardy Policy: The first tardy will result in a warning, the second a call home, & all subsequent tardies will be referred on to administration.
6. Safety: Safety is a major consideration in any science laboratory. All students will be required to sign a safety contract & pass a safety assessment before participating in the laboratory. Students who do not observe & practice classroom safety procedures will not be permitted to participate in lab & receive a zero for that assignment.
7. Behavior: Students are expected to follow all school rules to allow for a safe learning environment. This includes the use of school appropriate language. The first offense will result in a warning, the second a call home, & all subsequent offenses will be referred on to administration.
8. Cell phones: Students are not permitted to use cellphones &/or earbuds during class, unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. At the beginning of class phones will be placed in the phone caddy and remain there until otherwise instructed by the teacher. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the phone being confiscated & held until after class for the first offense. The second offense will require that students pick up their phones from campus security.
9. Restroom/Water Fountain: Students are expected to be in class but may use the restroom or water fountain when appropriate. Students should ask permission, then sign in & out. Only one student is permitted to leave the room at any given time. Cell phones may not be taken to the restroom or water fountain.
10. Food/Drink: There is no food, drink, or gum allowed in the classroom, except for water bottles.

TUTORING

All students are welcome to attending tutoring session when additional help with the class is needed. Mrs. Kenyon will be available after school on Tuesdays & Thursdays, or by appointment. Additionally, tutoring is available daily with other biology teachers on campus.

ATTITUDE

Students are expected to have a positive attitude while in the classroom. This includes respecting fellow classmates, the classroom, & all equipment. Further, students are expected to work hard in this class. Grades are not handed out, but rather earned by the student. I encourage all of you to work to the best of your ability, be respectful, responsible, & accountable for your actions. In return, you can expect the same from me!

SUCCESS CONTRACT

This is a contract stating the promise of the student, parent/guardian, & teacher to follow in order for the student to be successful. By signing this contract, all parties have agreed to adhere to the guidelines listed.