Course Overview

Welcome to Biology! This course will provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary to explore the living world. Not only will you learn about DNA, reproduction, genetics, evolution, and the human body, but this course will also provide you with critical thinking and analysis skills. In addition, you will gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of all living things and understand how we all function together and separately. You will also learn how biology has shaped our society, and how it can affect our future.

General outline of units:
- What is Science?: Metric System, Graphing, Experimental Design
- What is Life?: Macromolecules of Life, Enzymes, DNA
- Protein Synthesis & DNA Mutations: From Gene to Protein
- Genetic Engineering: Biotechnology, GMOs
- Cells: Organelles, Mitosis and Meiosis, Errors in Cell Division
- Ecology & Evolution: Biomes, Natural Selection, Population Ecology
- Genetics: Mendel, Punnett Squares, Pedigrees, Genetic Disorders
- Immune System: Specific & Non-Specific Defenses, Vaccines
- Nervous System: Structure & Function, Effect of Drugs

In addition, you will be required to design and carry out a Science Fair Project during 2nd Semester. You will be able to work individually or with a partner, and you can choose any topic you want, so please keep this in mind throughout the year and start thinking of ideas early.

Materials

For your learning success, please bring the following materials to class every day:
1. Spiral notebook OR a 3-ring binder with a section dedicated to Biology.
2. Pens (black or blue) and pencils.

Textbook: HOLT Biology: California Edition 2007 – You will NOT need to bring this to class every day, as I have a class set of textbooks in the room. There is also a pdf version of the textbook on my website.

Grading

This class is graded on a weighted point system. Each assignment will belong to one of the following categories:

- Homework = 10%
- Classwork/Labs = 30%
- Projects = 20%
- Quizzes/Exams = 35%
- Participation = 5%

A = 100-90%
B = 89-80%
C = 79-70%
D = 69-60%
F = Below 60%
Absences, Late Assignments, and Work Habits:
1) If you are absent, you may make up missed assignments within one day of each absent day to receive full credit. Otherwise, it will be considered late and you will receive 50% credit. **Late work will only be accepted for one week after an assignment is due!** Place all late and absent work in the proper basket with your name, date turned in, due date, and reason for missed work.

2) If you do not have your homework ready at the time I check or collect it (usually at the beginning of class), you will receive late credit (even if you turn it in at the end of the period!)

3) It is **your** responsibility to find out what you missed. *All assignments will be posted on my website, so please check for updates if you are absent!*

4) If you are absent for a test or quiz, it must be taken on the day you return to school, otherwise you will be docked 50%. Make-ups will not be allowed after one week.

5) If you do not write your last name and first name on your assignment you will receive no credit. **NO NAME = NO CREDIT.** If you resubmit the assignment with your name on it, you may receive 50% credit.

6) Your participation grade will be determined using the “Class Dojo” point system. You will earn points throughout the year for positive behaviors such as helping others, volunteering, staying on task, and working well as a group. You will lose points for negative behaviors such as being off task, being tardy, using your phone inappropriately, or talking while the teacher is talking. Your overall percentage of positive vs. negative behaviors will be your final participation grade.

Basic Classroom Expectations
1. **Respect**
   - Please keep the classroom clean and pick up after yourself.
   - Please raise your hand for attention and wait to be called on.
   - Please use appropriate language and treat others with respect.

2. **Be prepared:** Show up with your science notebook and writing utensils, and be in your seat when the bell rings.

3. **Ask for help:** Don’t be afraid to ask for help whenever you need it. Please make an appointment with me if you need extra help.

4. **Cell phones:** Please keep your cell phones out of sight unless I give you permission to use them.

5. **Honesty:** You are expected to do your own work. **Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.**

Staying Updated/Involved
Homework assignments and updates will be posted on my website daily. Go to ahwang.weebly.com and click on the “Biology” tab.

All grades will be posted on Schoology.

The best way to contact me is by email. Please do not hesitate to reach out for any extra help or questions!