

Biology I
Course Syllabus
Chester County High School
2024-2025

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Room #: E14
Planning: 2nd period

Course Description

Biology I is a laboratory science course that investigates the relationship between structure and function from molecules to organisms and systems, the interdependence and interactions of biotic and abiotic components of the environment, and mechanisms that maintain continuity and lead to changes in populations over time. Students explore biological concepts through an inquiry approach.

Course Outline

- A. Instruction: Every class period will begin with a “great start” that students are expected to be working on when the bell rings. Students are encouraged to participate in class by asking questions, taking notes, and interacting. Lecture will provide the students with all the information needed to succeed on tests and quizzes. At the end of every class period, there will be a “big finish” to complete that ties everything together.
- B. Materials Needed for Class:
1. Pencils or Pens (no red)
 2. Binder with paper or composition notebook

**There will be no textbook given out to each student, however, one can be issued to a student upon request.*

C. Grade composition will be made up of:

1. **Tests: 35%**
2. **Quizzes: 30%**
3. **Classwork/Assignments/Daily Work/Lab Work: 20%**
4. **Participation/Behavior: 15%**

A: 100 - 90% B: 89 - 80% C: 79 - 70% D: 69 - 60% F: 59% or below

1. Tests:

- a. There will be a test for every unit covered in the classroom. It will consist of multiple choice and have the possibility of short answer questions. You will be given at least a 3 day notice before a test is given, although I generally give much more of a notice than this. To be best prepared for taking your test, you will need to read your notes and complete any relevant assignments and study guide.
 - i. In the science department at Chester County High School, corrections can be made on tests for potential half credit back.
- b. **Benchmark tests** will be a cumulative test covering material from the first day of school to that current day. The goal of these tests is to better prepare students for the Biology EOC State Test. These will typically be given at the end of each six weeks.

2. Quizzes:

- a. Quizzes may or may NOT be announced ahead of time. Generally, there will be a quiz once a week.
 - i. In the science department at Chester County High School, there are no retakes or corrections allowed on quizzes.

3. Classwork/Assignments/Daily Work/Lab Work:

- a. This will include any work done in class being taken up for a grade. This can include, but is not limited to, any chosen “great start” or “big finish”, learning guides filled out in class, and any lab work done independently or as a group.
 - b. You **MUST** return to me with your signature, the Lab Safety Contract before you can complete any lab in my class.
 - i. Failure to do so or any violation of the contract will result in you completing an alternate assignment for that lab grade instead.
 - c. Any class work or assignments not completed the day we do it in class, will be turned into “homework” and be graded as class work.
4. Participation/Behavior:
- a. This grade helps prepare you for societal expectations beyond the classroom. Each week every student will start with a 100% in this category. However, as the week progresses, if your behavior becomes an issue you will gradually have points taken off from this grade.
 - i. These can be minor infractions like dress code violations, cell phone violations, or any other classroom disturbances resulting in 5 points off each instance.
 - ii. Major infractions would be altercations (verbal and physical), inappropriate internet searches, bullying, etc. These infractions would start with 6 points off the student’s grade and increase in alignment with the severity and frequency of the infraction.

Classroom Expectations

A. Guidelines:

1. There is a zero-tolerance policy on any type of bullying in my classroom. In my classroom, we only treat each other with kindness and respect.
2. When I start addressing the class, pay attention. (Put your phones away, take your airpods out, etc.)
3. No food or drink allowed in the classroom.
4. Do the right thing.

There are consequences for all your choices, whether they be positive or negative.

B. Cheating:

- a. Cheating of any kind will result in an automatic zero for the assignment given and no make-up will be allowed. Making contact with the parents will be made.

Absent Policy

- A. Students are responsible for obtaining any work they missed while gone, excused or unexcused. If students do not obtain their missed work and do not turn it in, it will result in a zero either a week from the missed day or the original due date, whichever is the latter.

Closing

- A. Finally, I am so incredibly excited to be teaching you this year and can't wait for you to gain a better understanding of biology. Science is a subject I am passionate about and want to share that passion and knowledge with you. This year is going to be wonderful and I look forward to getting to know every one of you.

I leave you all with this quote:

"We have a choice every single day that we wake up of what you can put into the world, and I ask you to please choose love every single day" - Harry Styles