BLENDED BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

Blended Biology
Course Code: 9232BX0
Course Level: Academic
Course Offering: Block for 1 credit with a 60% or higher final grade

NCVPS TEACHER INFORMATION

Teacher Name: <mark>Cindy Kendrick</mark>
Email Address: cynthia.kendrick@ncpublicschools.gov
Classroom Teacher: Kylie Akines
Email address: kakines@randolph.k12.nc.us

NCVPS TEACHER AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

A Note from Your NCVPS Teacher

Welcome to class! I am looking forward to working with you! As your biggest fan and supporter in learning, I will …

- grade assignments with meaningful feedback that is very specific and directive within 24 hours of submission. (Assignments submitted Monday - Thursday will be graded within 24 hours. Assignments submitted Friday - Sunday will be graded by Monday.) Assignments, such as essays, discussion forums, honors assignments, and research papers, may require longer than 24 hours for grading.

- respond to all calls, emails, texts and/or Canvas messages within 24 hours. Responses are typically sent in less than 24 hours unless it's late at night or on a weekend. I want to work to get to know you better.

- let you know when I will be online to work one-on-one with you.

- post announcements to introduce and/or review the learning for the week. It is very important that you review the announcement.

To learn more about what you can expect from me as your teacher, please read the NCVPS Accommodations and Accessibility Statements below.

NCVPS Accommodations Statement

Our goal at NCVPS is to make sure that we work with students in the ways that they learn best! For students with an IEP or 504, we have developed a process for ensuring that all learning needs are met. I will work with the student's school to devise a plan that provides all modifications and meets the IEP/504 goals as detailed in each student's IEP/504 document.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

If a student with an IEP or 504 plan is enrolled in a North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) online course, it is the responsibility of the local school system to ensure all the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education (IEP) Act and Section 504 are met. NCVPS will follow all modifications and accommodations documented on the IEP or 504 plan as appropriate. There are some instances in which accommodations listed in the IEP or 504 plan are not conducive to the online environment and may not be provided. In this case, the local school system will be responsible for providing such accommodations in order to help the student to be successful in the online course.

When a student enrolls in a NCVPS course, the accommodations or modifications from the IEP or 504 plan are shared via a phone conference between the appropriate local school district liaison and the NCVPS Virtual Teacher for the course. No IEP or 504 plans are shared via email. NCVPS and the school system must discuss the accommodations and modifications in the student's IEP or 504 plan each semester the student enrolls in a NCVPS course. Click on the appropriate link to read more information regarding the NCVPS IEP/504 Guidelines.

[NCVPS IEP/504 Guidelines for NCVPS Teachers and District ELAs](#)

[IEP/504 Guidelines NCVPS Partner Teachers and Classroom OCS Teachers](#)

NCVPS has a variety of interventions and supports implemented in the courses to enable students with an IEP or 504 plan to experience successful learning. Examples of interventions and supports include:

- One-on-one access to the teacher

- Monitoring of individual student progress by teacher, school district designee, and parent

- Individualized feedback for all student work

- Opportunities for differentiated/personalized instruction based on a variety of learning styles and the Universal Design for Learning Model

- Access to tutors through the Peer Tutoring Center

If you have any questions regarding IEP/ 504 services, or course accessibility, please contact:

Dr. Rachel McBroom

Chief Academic Officer

rachel.mcbroom@ncpublicschools.com

NCVPS Accessibility Statement

The North Carolina Virtual Public School is continually striving to improve our courses for all students, ensuring the courses are accessible to everyone. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding the accessibility of the course, please contact your teacher and we will work to resolve the issue.

Please view the [NCVPS Accessibility Statement page](#) on our website to review the accessibility statements for our Learning Management system and vendor tools.

If you have any questions about accommodations or accessibility, please contact me, your online teacher, first. We will work together, with your school, to best meet your learning path.

The Role and Responsibilities of an Online Student

Online learning is engaging, fun, and provides opportunities for creativity and collaboration. Just like students taking a class face to face, online learners must take responsibility for their learning. As an online student, you will …

- actively participate in the online course every day, Monday - Friday. Daily participation in the online course will ensure that you stay on pace. Students are welcome to work on the weekends, but it is not required.
- check course announcements.
- check messages in Canvas daily.
- complete assignments as outlined in the course pacing guide.
- seek help from your online teacher when needed. Your teacher is here to help! Do not hesitate to reach out with questions. Communication is key to your success.

Computer and Digital Literacy Skills Expected of an Online Student

In order for students to be successful in the online environment, there are certain recommended computer and digital literacy skills required. Please read below for the list of minimal computer and digital literacy skills.

Minimal Computer Skills

- Students should be able to use email to send and receive messages with and without attachments.
- Students should be able to download, upload, and edit Office 365 documents and/or Google Documents.
- Students should have access to and be able to operate a computer or device with a microphone and webcam.
- Students should be able to take screenshots (but directions are typically provided to guide on how to do this).
- Students should be able to demonstrate basic navigational skills of the Internet and websites.
- Students should be able to compose web based messages in the Learning Management System.

Minimal Digital Literacy Skills

- Students should adhere to NCVPS' Academic Integrity and Acceptable Communication policies.
- Students should be able to collaborate respectfully with their peers, stakeholders, and educators in the online environment.
- Students should be able to conduct, analyze, and present web-based research.
- Students should be able to follow conventional citation methods.

NCVPS Academic Integrity

The North Carolina Virtual Public School has an expectation that all work submitted by a NCVPS student is his/her own. Academic integrity of all students must be maintained, and NCVPS considers it to have a high degree of importance.

Academic Integrity determines that all assignments and exams submitted by a NCVPS student is his/her own and the student:

- Will not **plagiarize*** any material in written or verbal forms
- Will not share work with others, unless directed by your instructor, or copy the work of others and represent it as their own
- Will apply appropriate use of information literacy

* To plagiarize is to copy or use the ideas and/or words of another and represent them as your own.

The accuracy in which student work is submitted to NCVPS is of great importance and NCVPS reserves the right to use technology, such as SafeAssign to investigate plagiarism. The academic

integrity for all students must be maintained. To learn more about our student conduct and academic integrity policies, read the [Academic Integrity](#) portion of the [NCVPS Student Code of Conduct](#) document.

NOTE: Any student, who has plagiarized a work in any manner, will receive disciplinary action up to and including removal from the NCVPS course with a failing grade.

Acceptable Communication (Netiquette)

The term netiquette is used to describe and define a set of guidelines for acceptable online interaction and communication. To learn more about our netiquette guidelines, read the [Acceptable Communication (Netiquette)](#) portion of the [NCVPS Student Code of Conduct](#) document.

NCVPS Privacy Policy

The North Carolina Virtual Public School will abide by the student privacy guidelines set forth by the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA). The following persons have access to student records:

- NC State Board of Education (SBE) members
- NCVPS Executive Director, administrative team, and professional staff of NCVPS (teachers, guidance counselor, and student support services staff)
- Appropriate administrative support staff members and other professionals who have a legitimate educational or legal interest in student records as designated by the NCVPS Executive Director.
- Lab facilitators assigned by LEA who use school labs to access NCVPS courses

North Carolina Virtual Public School provides an academic transcript to the student's primary school of record upon completion of the online course(s), or upon any request of the primary school and/or student's legal guardian.

In accordance with state and federal privacy laws, students who attain the age of 18 may transfer certain rights related to their academic records. Some LEA schools may assign a lab facilitator to help students who use school labs to access NCVPS courses. Facilitators will have access to students' online work from their school.

No member of the NCVPS staff is authorized to release student information without the written permission of the student's legal guardian or without approval of the NCVPS Executive Director. Names, images, and/or course work of NCVPS students will not be published in print, video/film, or via the Web without written student and guardian consent. The privacy of all NCVPS students is protected through a unique password to access online courses**.** It is the student's responsibility to keep his/her password in confidence.

All the data provided to us is protected to ensure both the privacy and security of the data. We use state-of-the art technology to keep personal information as secure as possible to ensure that no one will be able to tamper with, intercept or access data. Remember to keep account information and password private and secure.

Authored content and external links are reviewed during development in order to comply with CIPA requirements and our technology team also works closely with our schools and users to ensure system safety protocols are in place.

NC Virtual is committed to the protection of children's online privacy. The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) governs information gathered online from or about children under the age of 13. Verifiable consent from a child's parent or guardian is required before collecting, using, or disclosing personal information from a child under age 13.

Students may come across some third-party web-based tools in their NC Virtual blended and online courses. Please view our vendor privacy statements below.

- Canvas Privacy Statement
- DBQ Privacy Statement
- Desmos Privacy Statement
- Explore Learning Privacy Statement
- SAS Curriculum Pathways Privacy Statement,
- Discovery Ed Privacy Statement
- Yuja Privacy Statement

NCVPS Content Rights

NCVPS policy it that all courses are compliant with applicable NCVPS policies and/or guidelines, including, ADA/Section 504/IEP Compliance, intellectual property, and provisions of US Copyright Law and the Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization Act (TEACH Act.)

Acceptable Use Policy

An Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is an agreement between students and their schools that outlines the rules governing the use of technology and Internet resources. To learn more about our acceptable use policy, read the Acceptable Use Policy portion of the NCVPS Student Code of Conduct document.

COURSE STANDARDS AND OVERVIEW

Course Standards

NCVPS courses follow the standards set by the state of North Carolina. To view the standards for Blended Biology read: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/media/4054/open. These standards were created by the North Carolina Department of Instruction.

Course Overview

This course is intended for students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) to develop an understanding of biological processes and discover how life science is an integral part of other sciences and society. Students will have opportunities to engage in hands-on, as well as minds-on activities that are aligned with the North Carolina Essential Standards. They will gain an understanding of the cell, molecular basis of heredity, and biological evolution. They will investigate the interdependence of organisms as well as well as acquire an understanding of the matter, energy and organization in living systems. Technology skills will be reinforced through the entire course. Pre-Assessments will be used as diagnostic tools, while lessons delve into the content, and Post-Assessments measure mastery. This course is designed to be implemented in a blended learning environment with collaborative instruction delivered by an online highly-qualified Biology teacher as well as a face-to-face OCS teacher. This collaboration will ensure that activities are differentiated to meet the diverse learning needs of students in this course.

Final Exam

Students taking Blended Biology will take the End of Course (EOC) for Biology which is issued by the state. Please speak with your testing coordinator for specifics for your school. To see additional information, go to QRG – Grades.

NCVPS calculates final exam or final project grades as 20% of the total grade. As always, schools may recalculate grades if the district policy has different weights for the final exams. For more information, please refer to the QRG – Grades.

Course Prerequisite

There are no prerequisites for Blended Biology.

Course Outline

To view the course outline and the correlation between the lesson objectives and the assessments, please view the Blended Biology Learning Objectives and Assessment Alignment Document.

Course Work Grade Determination

Students will complete activities online and in the classroom. Grades will be based on the face-to-face school's grading scale and the classroom teacher's gradebook.

Course Specific Information

Throughout this course, you will be asked to complete Gizmo activities. These are wonderful, interactive learning tools that will allow you to practice the concepts you are learning and get real time feedback. When you click the link for your Gizmo, you will be taken to the main site for the Gizmo company: www.explorelearning.com

Each Gimzo activity found in your units will give the directions you need to find the correct Gizmo, but you will need to log in first. You will find the login at the top left of the main Gizmo screen. Click on the login button, and then enter the id and password below. Then you will follow the directions on each assignment for finding the correct Gizmo to complete. Always ask your teacher if you have questions!

Usernames and Passwords will be given to you by your NCVPS Biology teacher!

NCVPS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required and Recommended Materials

All required materials are located in the Blended Biology course inside the Canvas LMS. Students are provided with notes, activities, assignments, and assessments that are required in order to meet the course and lesson objectives.

Technology Requirements and Expectations

To review our technology requirements and expectations, read the NCVPS Technical Requirements.

NCVirtual Support Center
The NCVirtual Support Center is available to provide technical support when needed. Please visit https://ncvps.teamwork.com/support/#/docs to submit a ticket requesting assistance.