Biology Syllabus 2023-2024
Teacher: Mrs. Julie Andrews
Email: julie.andrews@hcbe.net
Phone: 478-218-7537

Course Description

The biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations of the life sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology. This curriculum includes more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students will investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

Course Outline – Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE):

SB1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze the nature of the relationships between structures and functions in living cells.
SB2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze how genetic information is expressed in cells.
SB3. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze how biological traits are passed on to successive generations.
SB4. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to illustrate the organization of interacting systems within single-celled and multi-celled organisms.
SB5. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to assess the interdependence of all organisms on one another and their environment.
SB6. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to assess the theory of evolution.

Required Materials

- 2-inch 3 ring binder
- Pencils/pens
- Highlighters
- Colored pencils/crayons/markers
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

Textbook

Miller & Levine (2019) Biology. Boston, MA: Pearson Education (Cost: $83.18)
Students will have online access to the textbook using the SSO Portal.

Grading

Grades will be updated weekly and available to parents and students via Infinite Campus. **Students and parents should check grades regularly.** This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of each semester. There will be no extra credit given during the course. The *semester average* will be determined as follows:

Major Assessments	45%
Minor Assessments	20%
Daily Work	15%
Final Assessment/EOC	20%
This is an EOC course!	

Late Work Policy

Students are expected to communicate with the teacher if work will not be turned in by a given due date. Late work will be accepted through the end of the unit; it will not be accepted once the unit is completed unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Tutoring
Tutoring times will be Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 3:00pm-3:30pm, except for days there are scheduled meetings. Additional tutoring times can be arranged before or after school by communicating with the teacher.

Google Classroom
Google Classroom will be updated daily with all notes, assignments, and additional resources. A class calendar will also be available for students to know what to expect each day of class – students should refer to the class calendar in the event of an absence. Students should be familiar with how to navigate the online platform, communicate with their teacher, and submit assignments on time. If there are technological limitations, please notify the teacher.

Student Chromebooks
All students are issued a district-provided Chromebook for instructional purposes, student engagement, and student learning. Chromebook use is at the direction and discretion of the classroom teacher.

Honor Code
The academic integrity of courses at VHS is of the utmost importance; as such, cheating or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If a student cheats or plagiarizes on any assessment, the result is a zero as a placeholder until the student has had the opportunity to demonstrate learning on an alternate assignment; the teacher must make parent contact. If cheating or plagiarism occurs on a major assessment, the student should be referred to an administrator for review. Cheating or plagiarism on a major assessment will also result in alternative discipline or in-school suspension. The ISS assignment will be progressively graduated if it is a repeated offense.

VHS Retesting Policy
Students may re-take two major assessments per semester, after completing test corrections and/or tutoring/remediation, except for county math requirements. No re-testing is allowed in AP courses. Additionally, a re-test cannot replace a zero for a task never initially completed.

Teacher Procedures and Expectations
Students are expected to always adhere to the VHS Student Code of Conduct.

- Arrive ready for class; be seated and ready to begin when the bell rings.
- Treat everyone with respect; be polite toward the teacher and peers.
- Food and drink are not permitted in the classroom/lab.
- Take pride in our classroom and lab by keeping it clean; do not write on textbooks and/or desks.
- When others are talking, pay attention and listen; do not talk while others are talking.
- Personal devices of any kind are not allowed during class.

Attendance
- Students should make every effort to be in class each day. If absent, please communicate with the teacher as soon as possible. The class calendar in Google Classroom will be the best resource to know what work was missed. Additional copies of worksheets will always be available in the biology crate.
- If a test is missed, it is the student's responsibility to schedule a day to make-up the test within 5 school days. If a lab is missed, it will be the teacher's discretion if an alternate assignment or make-up lab is provided.
- Students have 5 minutes to get from class to class; please use this time wisely. **If you are not in the classroom when the bell rings, you will be marked tardy.**
- Students will not be allowed to go to the bathroom the first or last 10 minutes of class or during lecture/notetaking time.

Consequences
- Minor disruptions/infractions will receive warnings, conferences, and/or parent communication.
- Repeated minor offenses will result in school detention before or after school.
- An office referral will occur for major disruptions/infractions, failure to serve assigned detention, or after repeated detention assignments.

Minor disruptions/infractions progressive discipline system:
1st offense – Verbal warning and conference with student
2nd offense – Written warning sent home for parent/guardian signature
3rd offense – Detention before or after school in Mrs. Andrews' room
4th offense – Office referral
* **Major disruptions/infractions will result in an immediate office referral. ***

Please return this page to Mrs. Andrews no later than Friday, August 4, 2023

_____
Student Name Printed   **Class Period**

Lab Safety Contract

General Lab Safety Rules
- Follow all written & verbal instructions as provided
- Always wear proper eye/clothing protection.
- Conduct yourself in a responsible & safe manner in the laboratory environment.
- Be knowledgeable of equipment, safety symbols & techniques required for each lab.
- Know where/how to get help in an emergency, including the location of the first aid, eye wash, fire extinguisher, and fire blanket.

Students must pass a lab safety quiz with an 80 or higher to be permitted to participate in lab activities.

I have read, understand, and agree to follow the lab safety rules outlines above, located in the lab safety materials, and any others provided in the future. I will always conduct myself safely & appropriately in the lab environment. I understand that failure to do so may result in not receiving credit for the lab and/or an office referral.

_____
Student Signature   **Date**

- -

Parent Acknowledgement

I have read the information provided in the course syllabus and understand the policies, procedures, and expectations. I will support my teacher's efforts to ensure my student is successful in this class. I acknowledge that my student must abide by the lab safety rules as outlined above and any others provided by the teacher. I have contact information to communicate with the teacher if needed:

Email: julie.andrews@hcbe.net   Phone (478) 218-7537

_____
Parent Name Printed   **Parent Phone Number**

_____
Parent Signature   **Date**

_____
Parent Email