



# BIOLOGY

## Lead Story Headline

Dear Parents and Students,

My name is Mindy Thornlow and I am really glad to welcome you and your child to my classroom this year. I graduated from the East Carolina University with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology with a concentration in Marine Biology and later completed my Master's in Art from the same University. I have taught at the high school level going into my 12th year of teaching but I did not originally start off in education. I am a veteran of the United States Navy where I was responsible for the production of a variety of meteorological and oceanographic products. After the military, I went to school which is when I completed the degrees above. I have also worked in the private sector before becoming a teacher. This gives me a different perspective when assignments or projects are given for the students. I like to treat the students as young adults and therefore leave them to their own devices when it comes to class and homework assignments. I look forward to this new school with your child(ren) and I hope that we will all have a great school year.

Regards,  
Mindy Thornlow



Biology  
is LIFE

### Special points of interest:

- Introduction to course
- Required materials for course
- A/B/Not Yet FEATURED ARTICLE
- Important Dates
- Class Rules and Consequences
- Contacting Ms. Thornlow
- ALL TEST DATES including each round

## What is this course all about? What is Biology?

Biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. Throughout the year we will take some opportunities for students to develop scientific process skills, laboratory techniques, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms. Students will explore biological science as a process, cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution and classification, diversity of living organisms and their ecological roles, and an introduction to animal structure and function. An end of course test (EOC) will be administered in June, which covers the material that was covered within the Spring Semester.



## Attendance

Because each class builds on previous knowledge, it is very important that students are in class every day. When absences cannot be avoided, it is the **student's responsibility** to get the notes and the assignments missed. This is the expectation of the teacher and the responsibility of the student.

## Beginning Class

Students should come to class every day with their notebook, calculator, paper, writing utensil, and all work. Students are expected to be in the door BEFORE the bell rings and working on their warm ups OR class work assignment. Students should take care of all bathroom business BEFORE class.

There is 5 minutes in between classes and that is plenty of time to take care of business.

## CELL PHONE POLICY

**Before entering the classroom, students are to power off all electronic devices and place them in the AS-SIGNED cell phone parking lot (pocket). This is your verbal warning explaining this policy. All phones not placed in this location could result in a write up and office referral for insubordination!!!!!!**

## Homework

Students could be assigned homework EVERY night. There will be class time for these assignments, but students are encouraged to work outside of class at home, in after school tutoring or any where that the student is comfortable and can concentrate. This helps when the student needs assistance the next day in class. Homework is an extension of the class lesson and is vital to successfully mastering biology.

## Unit Tests (NOT THE QUIZZES)

Tests will be given at the end of every MAJOR unit. If a student knows that he or she will be out of class on the day of a test (for a field trip, band concert, etc.) the student is responsible for making an appointment with the teacher and taking the test ahead of time. These tests will cover the same material as the regular test, but **will not necessarily be the same test or format**. Tests will be graded by objective using the A/B/Not Yet policy described in the featured article on the next page of this news letter.

## Grading Policy:

Tests: 45% Quizzes: 20%  
Labs: 20% Classwork/Homework: 15%

## Grade Distribution

A: 100-90 B: 89-80,  
C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: <59

## Important Dates

Midterm: October 25, 2021  
Final Exams: January 6, thru 14, 2021

## Biology Survival Pack

Just like any project, biology requires certain tools to get the job done right. Below you will find the required materials for the course:

**GRAPHING Composition Notebook :** A notebook will need to be kept specifically for physical science. Because there are so many notes and handouts, the graphing composition notebook works best for this class!!!!

**Folder:** This is JUST FOR PAPERS PRIOR TO BEING GLUED INTO OUR NOTEBOOKS!!!!!!

**Writing Utensil :** As always, a pencil is best for a science course. Your work will require you to make corrections and adjustments.

**ALL work must therefore be submitted to me in pencil OR blue/black pen ONLY.**

**ABSOLUTELY NO, colored pen or pencil assignments will be graded/looked at and could result in a NOT YET (NY) on a test if done on qualifiers (ZEROS on other assignments! WITHOUT make up opportunity!!!!!!!!!!).**

**NOTE: I DO NOT USE THE TEXTBOOK IN CLASS OR OUT OF CLAS. HOWEVER SOME STUDENTS FEEL BETTER WHEN THEY HAVE A REFERENCE TO LOOK AT OTHER THAN NOTES. SHOULD YOUR STUDENT WANT A BOOK HE/SHE WILL HAVE TO COME TO ME and I WILL PROVIDE A BOOK FOR THEM.**

**Paper :** Students should bring loose-leaf paper to work out problems and for some notes that are not completed on note sheets. This should be placed in the three ring binder with their handouts and other materials.

## Ms. Thornlow's Wish List

Colored Copy Pencils/Pens Paper Kleenex Paper Towels Pen-Sanitizer

## Featured Article: A/B/Not Yet Grading System

I firmly believe that everyone can learn the concepts of biology to a mastery level. I will be using a grading system that allows for multiple opportunities to reach mastery. The following information outlines my grading system:

1. Tests and quizzes are written by objective, & each objective will be scored separately. This will allow you to retest only the portion that you struggled on.
2. The first opportunity of testing will be graded as A, B, or not yet (NY) for each objective. If needed, you may **EARN** a second opportunity to test or take the quiz & it will be graded the same as the first opportunity. Let me explain these concepts further:

You **must be qualified** to take an assessment in biology for a grade. The following must be done prior to the first opportunity:

- ◆ For the FIRST round the only qualifier is the **PRACTICE TEST/QUIZ**. It must be completed & turned in ON THE DAY OF THE TEST OR QUIZ (SEE DATES ON LAST PAGE OF THIS LETTER).

**THERE ABSOLUTELY CAN NOT BE ANY BLANKS ON ANY OF THE QUALIFIERS!!!!!!**

If you do not qualify, you will **STILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE TEST**, but it will not count. You still want to do well so that you have fewer corrections later.

If you receive a NY on any objective on opportunity 1, you are **REQUIRED** to retake that objective. If you receive a B on any objective, you may choose to retake it. **If you do not retake any NY, then the ENITRE TEST will be entered as a zero.** This policy ensures whole content mastery, & will avoid students picking & choosing which objectives to complete on the test.

The following must be done prior to taking opportunity 2, for those objectives you are retesting only:

- ◆ All requirements for opportunity 1 are completed if they were not before.
- ◆ Test/Quiz corrections for opportunity 1 must be completed on a **SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER** & turned in to me **ON TEST/QUIZ DAY**.
- ◆ ANY AND ALL additional work will be **ATTACHED** to your opportunity 1 test must be completed & turned in to me.
- ◆ I WILL NOTE ON YOUR OPPORTUNITY 1 TEST WHAT THE EXPECTATIONS ARE FOR ROUND TWO THAT MUST BE COMPLETED

All grades will be entered into the computer after the SECOND OPPORTUNITY test.

Letter	1 <sup>st</sup> Try	2 <sup>nd</sup> Try	3 <sup>rd</sup> Try
A	100	95	90
B	89	85	80
NY	0	60	60

For those students who would like to try again on their objectives, you may take advantage of an **opportunity 3**. The following must be done in order to qualify for this test. This opportunity **MUST** be completed **BY THE DEADLINE LIST ON THIS PARENT LETTER PAGE 4** and **MUST BE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!!!**

- ◆ Test corrections on opportunity 2 test for all objectives you want to retest.
- ◆ ANY incomplete work from opportunity 1 and/or 2 which you must meet with me to get what you will need to complete for opportunity 3 (NOT DURING CLASS TIME EITHER!!!).
- ◆ Further demonstration of working on the material. These are required to be quite substantive. There are many options for this, and it is the student's choice as to how they want to approach it. Ideas include, but are not limited to:
  - ⇒ Creating a complete chapter outline from the textbook.
  - ⇒ Creating a graphic organizer for the entire unit.
  - ⇒ Creating a poster that summarizes the entire unit.
  - ⇒ Create a parallel assessment for the unit, including an answer key.
  - ⇒ Making flashcards of vocabulary, formulas, and/or symbols.
  - ⇒ Student suggestions approved in advance by me.

The purpose of the above demonstration is to engage you in additional practice with the material in a new way. This additional practice is exactly what you need to improve your mastery of the material! Taking the third opportunity is quite a privilege and you will need to work hard to earn it. What a **GREAT** way to raise your grade and increase your understanding!

### *Instructor Information*

Ms. Mindy Thornlow

**Student Help:** Mondays thru Thursdays 3:15 to 3:30

**Phone:** 336-861-6870 ext. 67218

**Email:** [m1thornlow@randolph.k12.nc.us](mailto:m1thornlow@randolph.k12.nc.us)

**THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT ME IS VIA EMAIL!!!! I will check EMAILS up until 8 pm!!!**

### Rules

The following are four simple rules that will be followed in addition to the school rules/policies and lab procedures.

- ♦ Be Courteous—respect the other students around you as well as the teacher, and behave in a manner that exhibits this respect. Including the property in the classroom!!!
- ♦ Be Prepared—come to class on time with all materials, ready to work and learn for a full ninety minutes
- ♦ Be Responsible — for your materials, your deadlines, your behavior, and the lab equipment/substances when it is in use.
- ♦ Be Safe—due to the nature of many of our labs it is EXTREMELY important that you respect the rules of the lab to protect yourself and those around your deadlines, your behavior, and the lab equipment/substances when it is in use.

### Consequences

Should any of the rules of the class or school be broken the following consequence plan will be put into action as appropriate.

1. Warning: verbal or non-verbal cue
2. Detention and the student will write a letter home to parent to be used at next consequence describing behavior and consequences. Parent will be contacted.
3. The letter written will be sent home to parent with addendum for current behavior issue. Additionally, the issue will be referred to the office

### **Biology Assessment Dates: THEY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE based on WEATHER ONLY!!!!**

Unit	Topics	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3
0	Doing Science (NOT A/B/NY)	August 31	NONE	NONE
1	Characteristics of Life/Classification	September 15	September 21	September 28
2	Evolution by Natural Selection	October 6	October 7	October 15
3	Energy	October 21	October 26	November 1
<b><u>MIDTERM NO A/B/NY (MULTIPLE CHOICE ONLY)</u></b>				<b><u>October 25, 2021</u></b>
4	Cell Structure and Function	November 4	November 9	November 15
5	Growth and Reproduction	November 23	November 30	December 3
6	Heredity	December 17	January 4	NONE
<b><u>STATE EXAMS JANUARY 7 THRU JANUARY 14, 2021</u></b>				