

Biology and Biology Honors Syllabus
Mrs. B. Thomas
Atlantic Coast High School

Phone : (904) 538 - 5120 ext 1504
Email: thomasb3@duvalschools.org

Class website: sciencewithmsthomas.com
ACHS Website: www.duvalschools.org/achs

"The most active role in education is not the teacher's but the student's."

Leonard Nash

General Course Description:

Biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. Throughout the year this course provides an opportunity 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 May, which covers objectives for both semesters.

Objectives/Goals:

- Teach students practical scientific skills, which they can use to investigate study and explain the world around them.
- Give students a deeper understanding of the how biology impacts their daily lives.
- For each student to achieve the Florida NGSS Standards for High School Biology.
- To encourage the spirit of scientific investigation and with it the attitudes of accuracy in thought and work.

Required Text Book: *Holt McDougal Biology (2012)*, Nowicki

Required Supplies:

Each student will need to purchase/acquire the following items for individual and classroom use:

Student Supplies

- 1 three ring view binder/clear overlay binder (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inches)
- 1 pack college ruled paper
- 1 pack of dividers (students need 10 dividers)
- Pen, pencil, and highlighter
- 1 pack of dot labels (ex. Avery color coding $\frac{1}{4}$ dots)
- 1 pack of 50 clear sheet protectors
- **Travel/USB drive (we will be doing lots of work on computers!!!)**
- 2 rolls of paper towel

Class Supplies:

- LAST NAME A - E → 1 bottle of liquid hand washing soap
- LAST NAME F - K → 2 packs of hole punched 3 x 5 note cards
- LAST NAME L - P → 1 pack sticky/post it notes

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- LAST NAME Q -U → 1 box of Kleenex (2 would be greatly appreciated)
- LAST NAME V - Z → 1 bottle of hand sanitizer

Tentative Learning Schedule

UNIT	TOPICS	PERFORMANCE TASK	Estimated
1	Biochemistry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of Life • Observations and inferences • Properties of Water • Organic Molecules • Reactions and Enzymes 	Standard: Brochure or PowerPoint presentation to provide information to address the special nutritional needs of a client Honors: Science Project	11 class periods
2	Cells, Cell Specialization, and Cellular Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cell Membrane • Cell Communication bacteria signaling • Plant Anatomy • Photosynthesis • Cellular Respiration 	Standard : TBA Honors: Science Project	18 class periods
3	Genetics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell Growth and Division • Mendelian Genetics • Human Inheritance • DNA, RNA, and Protein Synthesis • Genetic Technology 	Standard : TBA Honors: Science Project	16 class periods
4	Evolutionary Biology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scientific Theory of Evolution • Population Evolution • The History of Life • Classification 	TBA	16 class periods
5	Ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of Life • Observations and Inferences • Biogeochemical Cycles • Interdependence in the Environment 	TBA	18 class periods

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Impact on the Environment 		
6	Human Body Systems	TBA	11 class periods

Grade Policies and Expectations:

In my class, I will hold you, the student, to an academic standard considered by many to be "high." I consider the academic standard appropriate. In fact, I am completely convinced that the academic standard choices I make in my class are in your best interest, both short-term and long-term.

When it comes to getting the grade you desire, you have to meet **my standards for grades** and please be advised that I will hold you to high standards at all times. You may certainly disagree with my choices but, absent my disobedience to district guidelines or the law, I get to have the final choice on grade standards.

Evaluation/Grading scale:

Your grade in this class will be a combination of your Science Notebook, class participation, labs (including lab write-ups), quizzes, homework, projects, and exams. The grading scale is as follows:

Grade Scale

Percent	Gr.	Grade Description
97-100	A+	The "A" Student <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently superior comprehension and performance on assessments. Exhibits work with exceptional insight or special creative talents. Tends toward self-direction in activities and participates in class activities as listener, questioner or commentator. Completes all assignments
93-96.9	A	
92.9-90	A-	
89.9-	B+	The "B" Student

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Grade	88		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently strong comprehension and performance on assessments but may have difficulties synthesizing concepts. • Work is consistent but offers little insight or special creative talents.
	87.9-83	B	
	82.9-80	B-	
	79.9-78	C+	<p>The "C" Student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent or fair comprehension and performance on assessments. • Difficulties applying and synthesizing concepts. • Generally addresses the explicit but seldom offers little insight or special creative talents. • Relies on teacher direction. • Participates in class primarily as a listener. • Usually comments only if questioned. • Completes most assignments
	77.9-73	C	
	72.9-70	C-	
	69.9-68	D+	<p>The "D" Student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum comprehension and performance on assessments. • Often misses explicit relationships. • Relies on teacher direction. • Participates in class primarily as a listener. • Comments only if questioned. • Fair number of assignments are missing.
	67.9-63	D	
	62.9-60	D-	
	Below 59.9	F	<p>The "F" Student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student lacks effort in their work • Has many missing and/or late assignments • Student demonstrates a below average knowledge of lab skills and concepts of chemistry.

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Breakdown

% of Grade	Activity type
40%	Exams/Projects
20%	Labs/Activities/Quizzes
10 %	Homework
30 %	EOC - End of Course Exam

Retests

- All homework and labs must be complete that apply to test to be retested.
- Must retest within 5 school days of the original test.
- Highest grade on retest is an 80.
- Must schedule with teacher before or after school.

Grade Modifications

Grades will only be modified if I agree there is a mistake on my part. If you feel you have a claim, then fill out a grade discrepancy request to make your case (after school, not in class), then I will review/research your request and advise you of my decision. **Confrontational tactics, especially in public, serve no good purpose.**

Classroom Policies and expectations

Class room rules and student responsibilities are a necessary part of any classroom. They are designed to help you be a successful student. Some of the most important lessons students learn in the course of growing up are the lessons of good work habits, how to be organized, and how to be responsible for a task. Students who learn good work habits, organizational skills and accept responsibility become successful students. Successful students become successful people.

Class Room Rules are:

1. Be on Time and Prepared
2. Be Respectful, Responsible, and Exercise Restraint
3. Water is Acceptable. All other food or beverage must be put away or will be thrown away.
4. The unauthorized use of electronic devices is prohibited.
5. FOLLOW ALL LAB SAFTEY RULES DURING LAB ACITIVITIES.

Basic Student Responsibilities

1. Attend class every day on time!
2. Think! Think about what you know and how it relates to what you're learning.

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3. Keep track of your Science Notebook and bring it to class daily
4. Listen to your peers and wait your turn to speak
5. Read instructions and attempt work before asking for help
6. Take responsibility for learning and practicing classroom routines
7. Take responsibility for grades and organizing your time and school work

Extra Credit

Generally I give limited extra credit, if on occasions I do give extra credit opportunities it will be offered to the whole class. Extra credit WILL NOT BE USED FOR REMEDIATION OF A GRADE. I believe your grade should reflect your effort over the entire semester. If you feel you will need extra credit to help your grade, then I advise you to earn those points by working extra to score higher on tests and labs during the semester.

Academic Integrity

Personal pride and integrity are essential to Atlantic Coast's dedication to academic excellence and are fundamental elements of the Student Statement of Student Commitment Cheating is a class II offense as defined in the Duval County School Board Student Code of Conduct. Consequences may include suspension from school. Cheating, to include plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Examples of what constitutes cheating include plagiarism, copied homework, copying/pasting from internet, using someone else's project, cheating on exams and use or assistance of any other unauthorized materials as established by your teacher.

Make up Work (Due to Absence)

- You have one day for each excused absence to make up your work.
- **From DCPS Student Code of Conduct** :Students who are absent shall receive a grade of a zero(0) for missed work for the day(s) or class period(s) in which the absence occur. Students shall be responsible for making up missed work for each absence. Students shall receive 100% credit for the make-up work for all absences completed within the allotted time. The school principal shall determine the appropriate length of time for completion of assignments.

Late Work (not due to absence)

- Late assignments will not be accepted

Attendance Policy From DCPS Student Code of Conduct

- Students with unexcused absences shall be held accountable through provisions of the Code of Student conduct. Other appropriate penalties, such as detention beyond the regular school schedule or appropriate counseling programs for students and parents, may administered at the school principal's or designee's discretion.

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- Any student who misses more than eight (8) days of a course or four (4) days on a block schedule during one grading period must meet both criteria below to be eligible for a passing grade (A-D) in that course:
 1. The student passes the required comprehensive quarter exam or the required project in the course. A comprehensive project will be given to all students in courses for each grading project; and
 2. The student has an overall passing grade in the course for the grading period.

Tardy Policy:

YOU MUST GET A TARDY PASS FROM YOUR DEAN'S OFFICE/ATTENDANCE OFFICE BEFORE YOU MAY ENTER MY CLASS LATE. In my class bell to bell learning/instruction is the expectation. Tardiness causes interruptions in the flow of our learning. To help alleviate the disruptiveness of being tardy, I have a simple policy that all students are expected to adhere to. **Grandiose entrances are unacceptable.**

Consequences:

So summary, being unprepared, sleeping or having your head down on desk, inattention, reading magazines or novels, signaling to another, running anywhere to beat a tardy to my class, sitting other than in your assigned seat, cleaning out your notebook during class, throwing away trash during class, eating food in class, leaving trash around your seat or in sink, listening to your CD,MP3, or IPOD player, letting me see your cell phone, using your cell phone in class (including texting), packing up early, grooming yourself, grooming another, looking at pictures, playing games on your graphing calculator or PSP or any other game console, logging onto inappropriate sites in the computer lab, etc. Is this a great list or what?

Pretty much a list of silly stuff, but the above will get in the way of you (and others) doing our class work. If I determine that you consistently cannot make the correct behavioral choices, then I will take steps to convince you to make those choices. Students choosing not to meet the class room expectations and policies may be warned, detained after class, detained after school, assigned Saturday morning detention, require a parent teacher conference, or referred to the appropriate administrator. *****Please be advised students violating lab safety procedures may lose their lab privileges for the school year.** You are expected to adhere to the student code of conduct by Duval County Schools, and class/lab management rules. Consequences for not adhering to the student code of conduct by Duval County Schools, and Class and Lab rules will be swift and immediate

There is an item not on the above list. That missing item is doing another subject's homework in my class without permission. Do not bring out ANYTHING except Biology or Chemistry to work on.

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Study Buddies

Success in our class room is dependent on a collaborative efforts made by each student. Each student will be assigned a study buddy at the beginning of each term. Most likely your study buddy will be your lab partner(s). Your study buddy will be responsible for making sure you get the notes, activities, handouts, and homework in case of your absence. In turn you will do the same for your study buddy in the case of their absence.

Study Clinics with Ms. Thomas

Study clinics will be offered once a week. Other study clinic times must be made by appointment and depend on availability.

Grade Recovery with Ms. Thomas:

Grade recovery is a last resort and there are strict guidelines as to who qualifies for grade recovery. It is in your best interest to avoid getting failing grades! All grade recovery is done through a program named *Compass Odyssey* and is entirely computer based.

*****Be sure to check out the class website: sciencewithmsthomas.com for class info, assignments, contact info, lecture downloads, and other great information!!!**

Class Web Site: www.sciencewithmsthomas.com

Parents please don't forget to sign on the parent contact form for this course acknowledging that you have read the class syllabus.