8th Grade GT Honors Biology Syllabus and Grading Policies

Ms. Wilbrecht, Swope Middle School

GT Science 2019 – 2010

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This is a high school level biology course. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have an in-depth understanding of the following core ideas:

* Structure  and  Function
* Inheritance  and  Variation  of  Traits
* Matter  and  Energy  in  Ecosystems
* Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
* Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Students will plan and execute their own experiments, observe and interpret data as it relates to their daily lives, and support claims based on evidence. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of research and literacy skills, critical thinking skills, collaboration, developing and using mathematical models, and various laboratory techniques.

Recommendations for high school science placement is based on student high school math placement along with: course progress, work ethic, test scores, and overall class grades. Generally students will either progress to Honor’s Chemistry or repeat Honors Biology their freshman year of high school.

The following outline is our best indication of the layout for the school year; however, it is flexible and open to some variance based upon individual and class needs.

Course Outline:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Quarter 1: Ecology* * Nature of Science, Measurement, and Safety (continues throughout course)
* **Bottle Biology Project**
* Principals of Ecology
* Ecological Cycles
* Interactions and Behavior
* The Biosphere
 | *Quarter 3: Cell processes, DNA and Cell Division** Structure of DNA
* Cell Division – Mitosis and meiosis
* Transcription/Translation/Replication of DNA
* Mendelian Genetics
* **Dragon Breeding Project**
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| *Quarter 2: Chemistry of Life, Cells and Cell Processes** Biochemistry
* Cell Structure
* Cell Function
* Cell Transport
* Photosynthesis
* Respiration and Fermentation
 | *Quarter 4:, Heredity, Genetics, Evolution, Classification, Human Systems** Mendelian Genetics
* Theory of Evolution
* Classification and Diversity
* Overview of each kingdom
* Human Cell and Tissue Types
* Human Systems and Cycles
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**Class Materials:** Bring the following materials to class each day. Coming to class unprepared will negatively affect your work ethic grade.

**Panther Planner, Science composition book, pencils, colored pencils.**

**Text and Support Material:**

The textbook for this class is online and can be found at[**www.flourishkh.com**](http://www.flourishkh.com).Textbooks can be checked out from the classroom. Please note that our class has a limited supply of hardback textbooks. I encourage that students become familiar with the online textbook. Information about logging in to the online textbook will be given separately.

We will also use the website <http://www.ck12.org> for pre-reading assignments as well as to supplement other content related materials for this course.

**Grading Policies:**

The grade book for science will be set up as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Details** | **% Overall Grade** |
| Assessments/Projects | tests and summative projects | 60% with semester finals accounting for no more than 10% of the semester overall grade.  |
| Classwork  | formative labs and in class activities | 30% |
| Homework  | 15 minutes per night and depends on what is not completed during class time, readings, etc. Also consists of studying and reviewing for quizzes and tests. | 10% |

**\*Retakes:**

Tests: 1 retake allowed per semester

* Students will be given a test correction form and a copy of the exam and will need to complete it under the teacher’s supervision (most likely at lunch or after school) prior to retake.
* Retake date will be determined by teacher.
* The test retake grade, whether better or worse than original test grade, will be entered into the grade book.

Labs and Classwork: Students may meet with the teacher after receiving graded work to discuss work resubmissions.

**Resubmits must be turned in within 5 days.**

Policies regarding team rules, academic honesty, attendance, late work, student behavior and work ethic expectations will be addressed in a GT Team letter. I look forward to teaching an exciting Honors Biology course that meets science standards and captures your imagination in science as a whole.