

Currituck County High School
Miss. Morris
Fall 2023

COURSE SYLLABUS

Welcome to Biology! I'm excited to have you in our class this semester. Please read the syllabus carefully before signing and returning it back to me.

Introduction

This course is designed for students to continue their investigation of the life sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology. The curriculum includes more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, energy and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. The material being covered is in line with the North Carolina *Essential Standards* for Biology. Students will investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and scientific inquiry. Since classroom activities and discussions are vital aspects of this course, regular attendance, attention, and participation are very important.

To increase student achievement, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction provides [Essential Standards](#) for this Biology course. These standards are embedded into the curriculum.

Instructor

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Learning Expectations

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>I expect you to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) respect your classmates and the classroom.2) be prepared for class.3) submit assignments on time.4) always put in your very best effort. | <p>In return, you can expect that I will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) be respectful of you and your classmates.2) provide a safe learning environment.3) be fair and consistent with all students.4) always put in my very best effort to help you reach your goals. |
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Materials & Google Classroom

- School issued Chromebook or personal laptop (charged and ready to go each day)
- 3-ringed binder with loose-leaf paper
- Pencil

In this class we will be making use of Google Classroom. On the first day of school we will make sure everyone is able to enroll in the correct Google classroom to match the period of Biology you are taking. Through Google Classroom you will be able to access online assignments and other class resources.

Grading

Students in Biology will take a North Carolina State End Of Course (EOC) Test during one of the last five days of the semester. **This assessment will count towards 20% of the final grade in this course.**

North Carolina state uses a 10-point grading scale that is outlined below.

| | |
|---|--------|
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |

Students will be accountable for completing all assignments. PowerSchool will be updated weekly. Parents and students are encouraged to check Powerschool regularly to stay up to date on assignments and grades. The CCHS Science Department issues the following grading scale for each science course.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Tests and Projects | 40% |
| Laboratory Assignments and Quizzes | 30% |
| Classwork Assignments | 30% |

Extra Credit

There will periodically be extra credit opportunities available for students to boost a Test grade. This extra credit may be overview sheets or review games prior to a Unit Test. Additional extra credit requests may be approved on a case-by-case basis, but to be considered a student must have no missing assignments.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. **If you are absent, it is your responsibility to access Google Classroom to obtain missed information and assignments.**

Late Work Policy

Students who fail to complete an assignment by the assigned due date will still be allowed to complete the work up to 3 instructional days after the assignment is due. Anything turned in after the 3rd instructional day may **not** be accepted.

| Calendar School Days Late | Grade Impact |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 school day | -10% off total possible points |
| 2 school days | -30% off total possible points |
| 3 school days | -50% off total possible points |
| After 3 school days | Student will receive a 0 |

NOTE: Stipulations for extended time as set forth in IEPs and 504s will be complied with prior to the late assignment policy taking effect. Additionally, teacher discretion may be used on a case by case basis. *If you are struggling with completing work on time please feel free to meet with me to discuss how we can help you succeed.*

In the case of excused absences, the student will be provided time to complete make-up work before the late assignment policy takes effect. The teacher shall determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

A student who does not work in class is making a choice to be penalized according to the late work policy.

- If the assignment is a timed task or activity and a student refuses to provide a genuine attempt, a zero will be assigned and will be noted in PowerSchool.
- If an assignment or task is intended to be completed during one class period and a student refuses to provide a genuine attempt, a zero will be assigned and will be noted in PowerSchool.

Electronic Device Policy

Cell phones, smart watches, and earbuds are not permitted for use during instruction time. These devices are to be kept out of sight to limit distractions. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action for noncompliance and insubordination.

Policy Code: 4400 Attendance

School attendance and class participation are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the State between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 attend school. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily, as required by compulsory attendance laws.

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the student's teacher within two days after the student returns from an absence.

Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a health care practitioner.

Excessive Absences

Class attendance and participation are critical elements of the educational process and may be taken into account in assessing academic achievement. Students are expected to be at school on time and to be present at the scheduled starting time for each class. Students who are excessively tardy to school or class may be subject to in-school disciplinary action. In situations where excessive absence is having a negative impact on student performance, teachers will implement the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) problem-solving process after the student has accrued 5 consecutive absences or accumulated 10 absences, in order to identify strategies and interventions needed to improve both attendance and academic performance.

A parent is responsible for remaining aware of the number of absences a student has accumulated. At the conclusion of each nine-week grading period, a student's report card will indicate the number of absences. However, the principal shall notify parents and take all other steps required by G.S. 115C-378 for excessive absences. Students may be subject to in-school disciplinary action for truancy.

Excessive absences may impact eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics.

Discipline

Currituck County High School must be a safe and disciplined environment in order for teachers to teach and students to learn. Standards for behavior are established to foster a safe and disciplined environment. Behavior that detracts from a student's ability to profit from instruction or interferes with the rights of others warrants disciplinary action. The intent of any disciplinary action is to bring about a positive change in the student's behavior.

The [Currituck County High School Discipline Handbook](#) will be utilized to address any misbehaviors that take place in the classroom. It is the responsibility of both the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student to familiarize themselves with these policies.

Academic Integrity

Students will be honest and submit their own work. Violating rules of honesty and Honor Codes, including but not limited to plagiarism or copying another student's test or assignment, are prohibited. Failure to comply with these rules will be deemed as a major violation of misrepresentation. Disciplinary action will be taken by the school's administration team.

Policy 3410 Testing and Assessment Program

High school students must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests and Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Assessments required by the State Board of Education. For all students, excluding English Learner students in their first year in a U.S. school and students following the Occupational Course of Study Pathway, the results of EOC tests and CTE State Assessments will count as 20 percent of a student's final grade in each high school course for which there is an EOC test or CTE State Assessment. Students will not be exempted from EOC tests.

Biology Fall 2023 Syllabus

You may keep the syllabus for future reference. Please return this page signed and dated by Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

STUDENT: I have read this syllabus, and understand it.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I have read this syllabus, and understand it.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Preferred method of communication (circle one) Email or Phone call

Below you may provide any other pertinent information that you feel would be relevant.