

## Course Description

Biology is the “study of life.” In other words, Biology is everywhere. From the smallest of organisms like the bacteria that caused an awful sinus infection which caused you to miss school for a few days last year to the largest of organisms like the African Elephant, wherever life exists on earth, you will find Biology! This year-long course will give us the opportunity to explore the world of Biology and to prepare for the Keystone Biology Exam. We will investigate the very diverse topics listed below:



- Laboratory Safety
- The Scientific Method
- Characteristics of Living Organisms
- Chemistry of Life
- Ecology
- Ecosystems and Communities
- Biogeochemical Cycles
- Populations
- Cell Theory
- Cell Structure and function
- Photosynthesis
- Respiration and Fermentation
- Cell Division
- Genetics
- DNA and Replication
- Evolution
- Classification

Keep in mind – Study of each of the topics listed above is intended to prepare students for the Keystone Biology Exam. This exam is taken by students enrolled in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Biology course in the spring. Students will be taking the exam for this school year in May 2016. More on the Keystone Biology Exam can be found below.

## KEYSTONE EXAM REQUIREMENT

As mentioned previously, the culmination of the year’s instruction will come in May with the state-mandated Keystone Biology Exam. Beginning with the class of 2017, all students are now required to not only take the test, but to score in one of its top two categories – *Advanced or Proficient*.

To explain further – Starting with the class of 2017, it is now a GRADUATION REQUIREMENT that all students pass the Keystone Biology Exam, scoring in either the #1 – *Advanced* or #2 – *Proficient* category. If a student fails to do so, he or she will be required to participate in mandatory remediation, and must continue to work toward a passing score before receiving their high school diploma.

While this may seem a stressful requirement and sound scary – DO NOT FEAR! We will continue to work, as we have, to ensure your maximum preparedness for this exam. If you give me your best throughout the school year, you will enter the test in May with great confidence in your ability to perform well on the exam.

## What You Need...

The first and foremost thing I expect you to have in this class is a **positive attitude**. I have positive expectations for everyone to succeed in this course, so I ask that you do as well! Second, it is your responsibility to come prepared to class with the required materials. These include your textbook (when I tell you that you’ll need it in class), binder and a writing utensil unless I tell you otherwise. Your Biology binders will hold all of the handouts presented to you in class. Handouts will include class activities, notes, assignments, and lab activities. I will keep them numbered accordingly so you can keep them in order throughout the year.

- Textbook – Yes, of course they are heavy. I’ll let you know when you need them in class to save you the agony of carrying them around every day.
- 3-Ring binder – To hold all of your handouts throughout the year. Please have this by **Wednesday, August 30, 2017** – your first class participation assignment.

## Grading

The grading system in this class is based on the total number of points accumulated per nine-week period. It takes into account all that you do in the class – lab reports, activities, homework, quizzes, exams, etc. Each assignment is worth a certain amount of points depending on the type of assignment and the amount of effort needed to go into it. The grading scale is as follows:

- A – 91-100%
- B – 81-90%
- C – 70-80%
- D – 60-69%
- F – 0-59%

\* When averaging grades, a .5 value or higher will be rounded up.

## Policies and Procedures

The following course policies and procedures are put into place for you to follow throughout this school year.

### Turning-In Assignments

Unless otherwise noted, all work is due at the beginning of the class period. If it is not turned in at the time specified, it is considered late and will follow the late policy.

### Late Policy

All work is expected to be turned in on the specified due date. Assignments not turned in on time will automatically receive a 25% deduction. If the assignment is not turned in at the beginning of the following class period, it will receive another 25% deduction (for an overall 50% deduction) for being late. You can receive a maximum of 50% of the assignment's points until the day of the exam, at which it will be given an automatic zero for not being turned in. In other words, any of the assignments associated with a unit or chapter must be submitted prior to the exam associated with that unit or chapter for a maximum of 50% of its total value. Otherwise, the assignment will be assigned a zero.

In regards to turning in research projects – You will have a maximum of four days to turn in your project. The first day it is late you will receive a 25% deduction, second day – 50% deduction, third day – 75% deduction, and the fourth day – a zero will be assigned.

### Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. For any assignment you turn in for this class – it must be your original work. There will be instances where you will work together in this class, however, copying answers is not in your best interest. I want to know what you know and have learned – not what someone else knows and has learned. Also, be sure to cite sources appropriately if you are using them for a research project. Cheating, copying, or plagiarizing any work in this class is a violation of school policy and will result in a zero for the assignment.

### Absences and Make-Up Work

If you are absent for whatever reason – field trips, sporting events, etc., on your first day back in school, you are responsible to retrieve all of the work you have missed. Any handouts you miss will be kept in a make-up folder specific to your class. Upon your return to school, you will be given the same number of days to complete the work as you were absent. For example, if a student is absent two days, he or she has two days to make up the work. If an assignment was due the day you were absent, it is your responsibility to turn it in when you return. Otherwise, the late policy will be followed. Failure to complete the make-up work within the number of days you were absent will result in a zero for a given assignment. If the assignment missed was a lab activity, exam, or quiz – you must arrange with me a time when you can make-up the work. Make-up exams will cover the same material of the original test, but will follow a different format. Make-up tests and quizzes must be taken within two weeks of returning to school. Something to keep in mind – There is no substitute for coming to class.

### Tardiness

Students must be in the room when the bell rings. There is plenty to cover, so I ask that you come to class prepared and ready to work. So, that means...use the restroom before you come to class. I ask that you use the restroom for emergencies only.

## School Rules

In addition to this syllabus students should be aware of all rules given out in the handbook and should follow those as well as my own in the classroom.

## Assignments

Tests, quizzes, lab activities, in-class activities, homework, class participation, and keeping your Biology binder in line will come together to determine your grade for the course. Assignments should be complete and turned in on time. Due dates for these assignments will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to keep track of these due dates.

### Homework

Homework may consist of guided readings, review sheets, or application-type questions. It is very important that you complete these assignments as they will reinforce your understanding of the material presented in class.

### Lab Reports

Throughout the year we'll be completing many lab activities which reinforce the material covered in class. For each lab you will be given an accompanying handout. Most handouts will be completed (i.e. data collected, images sketched, pre- and post-lab questions answered, etc.) prior to turning-in the lab. Scoring guidelines will be provided for any lab write-ups throughout the year.

### Quizzes

Throughout the year we will have quizzes covering the material we discuss in class. Some will take the place of an exam (depending on the amount of material covered) while others will be used as a check of what you know leading up to an exam. They may or may not be announced, so it is your responsibility to complete the assignments and review the notes from class each day.

### Exams

Exams will be announced well in advance. Do not wait until the night before the exam to start studying. You will not do well on exams in this class cramming all of the information presented in class in one evening. Test questions will be taken from class notes, textbook readings, and lab activities. There will be a midterm exam covering the material presented to students during the first part of the school year. It is intended to help students review this material in preparation for the upcoming spring Keystone Biology Exam.

### Openers

Each day when you come into class – even before the bell rings, I will ask you to respond to an 'Opener' posted on the whiteboard in the front of the room. You will respond to the 'Openers' on an 'Opener' sheet that you will be given at the beginning of each week. All of your responses to the openers for the week will be written on this sheet. I will collect them at the end of each week to see what class material you do and do not understand and for a class participation grade.

### Keystone Reviews

Since this class is intended to prepare you for the Keystone Biology Exam, you will receive a Keystone Biology review packet at the beginning of each new section of material you will be tested on in class. Due dates for the review packets will be announced in class. Students will receive a grade for completion and correctness for each review.

### Binder Checks

You will be receiving many handouts throughout the year. They will be numbered so you may easily keep them in order within your binder and help you to stay organized for this class. It is important to keep your handouts in order and neatly organized so you may reference previous material when it comes to studying for your midterm exam or the big one – the Keystone Biology Exam. For this reason, I'll be checking to make sure your binders are neat and in order. Binder checks will be announced in class.

## Class Resources

### Extra Help

First and foremost – If you need help...ASK! If you don't understand the material come and see me. Please let me know when you would like to come in so I can plan for it in advance. Don't be afraid – there's no shame in asking for help!

### Textbooks

Your textbook is an excellent reference. However, I realize that they are heavy and that you really don't want to carry them to class every single day. For this reason – I will tell you when you need to bring your books to class with you.

### Review Sessions

In preparation for the Keystone Biology Exam, review sessions will be held after school in May on the days leading up to the first day of the exam. These review dates will be announced to students in class.

### Class Website

We will be using Schoology for access to our class website – [www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com) If you have used Schoology before, you know you need a student log-in to access this site. You may already know your username and password from using Schoology in other classes. Schoology has a calendar feature to keep you informed of assigned readings, homework, and tests to help you better prepare for class. Course resources will be made available via Schoology. If you are absent Schoology is great for seeing what you missed in class and to access any notes and handouts you are missing. **The access code to join the class is: KZFPN-ZKCH4**

## Your Role and Responsibility

The time we spend together in class should be used wisely. Therefore, I ask that you please come to class on time and are ready to work when you walk in the door. As far as classroom conduct goes, I believe that you should treat others as you wish to be treated. Unless you demonstrate otherwise, I expect everyone to be hardworking, responsible, respectful, and mature individuals in this class and you will be treated as such.

Finally, please remember that your **success** in this class and on the Keystone Biology Exam starts with having **positive expectations** for yourself to succeed. Your expectations and the effort you put forth will determine how much you will learn. Biology is everywhere in the life that surrounds us. It is a subject full of fun and interesting information. Through your experiences in this course I hope that you will develop an understanding of yourself and the other living organisms that we share our world with everyday!

## On that note...

Please keep this syllabus in your binder so you may reference it throughout the year. Please review these guidelines as they will explain not only what you will need for the class, but what to expect throughout the year. Please tear off and sign the last page in order to indicate your understanding and support of these guidelines. This last page is due on the same day I would like you to have your binder by – **Wednesday, August 30, 2017**. Keep the rest for future reference. I am looking forward to a great year!

Miss Sanders  
Freeport High School  
724-295-5143, x1552  
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Class website: [www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com)

# Biology Syllabus 2017-2018

## Parent/Guardian – Student Acknowledgement Form

Please review the guidelines in this guide as they will explain not only what you will need for the class, but what to expect throughout the year. Please tear off and sign this page in order to indicate your understanding and support of these guidelines. This last page is due on same day I would like you to have your binder by – **Wednesday, August 30, 2017**. Keep the rest for future reference. I am looking forward to a great year!

**Please note:** *If this is not signed and the student stays in the class it will be assumed that you agree with the expectations in this syllabus.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the expectations for this class and understand that by signing below I am agreeing to follow them and agreeing to deal with the consequences if I do not.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ have read the expectations for this class and understand that he or she signed this sheet and by doing so has agreed to follow these expectations. I also understand the consequences if they do not.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns throughout the year. Thanks! ☺

Miss Sanders  
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