

**Biology Syllabus  
2016-2017 School Year**

**Course Information:** This course provides a general knowledge of the natural order of living organisms and their relationship with the environment. Areas of study will include the systems and ecology. Laboratory procedures, observation, measurement, classification, prediction, and reporting skills will be emphasized.

**Teacher Information:**

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School Phone: 817-299-7500

**Text and Supplemental Tools:** Students will be using *Biology (Holt)* in the classroom. Textbooks will be online this year. It is highly recommended that you have an Ipad for this class. We will make accommodations for students who do not have an Ipad.

**Itunes U Course Enrollment Code: DTM-J26-4CD**

**Materials:** Each student is required to have the following with them in class each day:

- Notebook (as described by teacher)
- Pencil
- Red Pen
- Blue/Black Ink Pen
- Highlighter
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- 1 box of Kleenex
- Markers
- Colored map pencils
- Colored copy paper/cardstock

- Construction paper
- Hand sanitizer (Germ-X or other)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Homework:** Homework will be *due at the beginning of each class period on the given due date (generally the next class day)*. **Late homework will only be accepted the next time the class meets with a maximum score of 70. Any student who is absent on the day that homework is due will be held responsible for that homework based on the attendance policy (see below).**

**Test Corrections:** Students will be given the opportunity to correct all major test grades, regardless of the grade earned. The students will receive ½ credit back (based on the points per question) for each CORRECT answer. The teacher will decide the designated time for corrections and all corrections must be completed at that time. If the student is absent on the assigned day of test corrections, the student handbook absence policy will be followed. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Attendance:** Students will be expected to follow the policies of the Student Handbook. **Please note that missing 20 minutes or more of any class, at any time during that class period will result in an absence.**

**Restroom:** Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom for restroom purposes during the first 10 minutes of class or the last 10 minutes of class. Beyond this policy, restroom passes are at the teacher's discretion.

**Class Participation:** *Active* participation is required from each student. Active participation is defined in this class as working each and every day to involve oneself in class discussions, analyze data collected during labs and lab activities, draw conclusions based on evidence gathered in labs and lab activities, reason and explain conclusions and apply knowledge and skills in course assessments. This participation will be reflected in your student's success in the course as measured by assessment grades, lab grades and daily grades.

**Missed Exams or Assignments:** Students will be expected to follow the policies of the Student Handbook for making up assignments missed due to an absence. If a student is absent due to a **school related activity** it is my expectation that the student will make every effort to gather work before being absent. Otherwise, the student will follow the policies for making up the assignment. Assignments not completed within the given time will result in a zero. Missed exams will require

student attendance at a makeup exam before school or after school as designated by the teacher. Please make every effort not to miss class on exam days.

**Retake policy:** Test re-takes are provided so that each student has an equal opportunity to be successful. Each student is offered a re-take on any 50% category exam ONLY. In order to qualify, the student must have earned below a 70 AND have corrected the failed exam.

Corrections will include rewriting the missed exam question and the correct answer with supporting evidence.

Retakes are scheduled at the teacher's discretion (generally within a week of the test date). Re-takes are issued as new tests – and not a re-issue of the test that was taken. The score on the re-take will replace the original score, up to a 70. IF the student chooses to keep the original score, that is an option as well. All re-takes MUST be taken on the assigned day (again, at the teacher's discretion). **No make-up re-takes** will be given. Please plan accordingly.

**Lab Safety:** Each student is required to complete and have signed by a parent/guardian the district's Lab Safety Contract. Students will NOT be allowed to participate in labs until this has been returned to the teacher. Please make every effort to get this returned during the first week of school.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students will be expected to follow the policy of the Student Handbook. Cheating will NOT be tolerated.

<b>Six-Week Grading:</b>	Tests/Projects:	50% of 6 week grade
	Labs/Lab Checks:	30% of 6 week grade
	Daily/Quizzes:	20% of 6 week grade

**Semester Exam:**

Semester exams count 20% of the grade.

**NUMBER OF GRADES FOR REGULAR CLASSES**

Each teacher should take at least eight (8) grades per six weeks grading period. At least TWO of those grades should be a major assessment/test.

**Calendar: All dates tentative and subject to change.**

## **End Of Course Exams:**

Mansfield ISD will comply with state law and begin EOC testing in the 2011-2012 school year. First year 9th graders and any middle school student taking courses for high school credit will take EOC tests this year.

Semester grades for these courses will be calculated as stated above.

The EOC exam will NOT be counted in to the student's grade for biology. However, the student must pass the EOC in order to graduate.

First semester grade = 50%

Second semester grade = 50%

Note: The student can still receive credit for the year by failing the first semester with a 68 for example. If the student makes a 72 the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester then the students combined year average is a 70 and will receive credit for the course.

**Available Support Services:** Please feel free to visit <http://www.mansfieldisd.org/mhs/library/start.html> for research tools, journals, etc. with your student for enrichment or resource purposes. It is important that your student learn the passwords to be used in the sites and visit the library often for study time and tools.

Biology

\*Please review the syllabus and safety contract with your parent or guardian. Sign and return this form (and the Safety Contract) to your teacher as soon as possible to earn a daily grade of 100%.

**I have read and understand the course syllabus listing the requirements for the successful completion of Biology.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed parent/guardian name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian email address