PreAP Biology Syllabus

2016-2017

Course Information: This course is designed for students who show an **advanced aptitude** toward science. Areas of study will include the essential components and objectives of those in on-level Biology with greater depth and at a more accelerated rate. A greater emphasis will be placed on lab and the ability to evaluate, outline, organize, and report scientific information. Laboratory procedures, observation, measurement, classification, prediction, and reporting skills will be stressed. Therefore, strong math skills are important. The student should be proficient in reading and projects are required.

Teacher Information:

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Text and Supplemental Tools: Students will be using ***Texas Biology*** (Holt) in the classroom. There will be no book assigned outside of class, however, students will be issued a username and password to use the online version of this book from home. To access this site, students should visit http://my.hrw.com and use the username/password that they were assigned in class. If there are any special circumstances that would prevent your student from accessing this site please feel free to let me know and I will work with you to make sure your student has the tools that they will need for success. **Each teacher will also be using an iTunes U for quick access to files for notes, assignments, and labs with their iPads or for the general schedule of what is going on in class for the current unit. Each teacher will be getting that information to her students during the first week of school.**

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

- iPad (make sure it is charged or that you have your charger with you)
- **2 one-subject 8.5 x 11 (or larger) spiral notebooks*** (a sheet of paper must be able to fit on the page without being folded or cut)
- Glue
- Markers/ colored pencils (personal preference)
- Pencil
- Pen
- Highlighter(s)

In addition to the above, the following are not required but ***greatly*** appreciated and always needed:

- box of Kleenex
- Colored copy paper/cardstock
- Hand sanitizer/soap
- Expo markers
- Scissors

COURSE POLICIES

Homework: Homework will be ***due at the beginning of each class period*** on the given due date (due dates will vary). Late homework will only be accepted the next time the class meets with the maximum score of a 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).

Attendance: Students will be expected to follow the policies in the Student Handbook. **Please note that missing 20 minutes or more of any class period, at any time during that class period, is considered an absence.** A tardy is considered any time a student is not in the classroom by the bell. Tardies are recorded in attendance and dealt with through each student's associate principal.

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 in 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 the 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.

Test Corrections:

- Students who fail a major test/assessment (below 70%) will be allowed to correct up to a 70% grade. This does not include semester examinations.
- Students are expected to make arrangements with the teacher to correct a major test/assessment.
- Students are encouraged to participate in tutoring opportunities before correcting a test.
- All retakes or corrections must be completed prior to the end of each six week grading period unless the student is afforded time, after the six week grading period, as a result of the district's absent/make-up guidelines.
- Test corrections will include rewriting missed questions and writing out the correct answer with supporting evidence. They will also have to explain why their original answer was incorrect.

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. In addition to the safety contract, every student must pass, with 100% proficiency, a lab safety exam. Expect to be given this exam during the first week of school. Any student who does NOT pass will be required to re-take the exam until 100% proficiency is reached. No labs will be allowed until both criteria have been met.

Academic Dishonesty: A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an exam. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.

Grading:

Tests/Projects:	50% of grading period
Labs:	30% of grading period
Daily/Quizzes:	20% of grading period

There will be a required minimum of 8 grades per grading period entered into the gradebook to be averaged as the student's final grading period grade. At least 2 of the 8 grades will be 50% grades (test/projects).

****At the end of each semester, students will be given semester exams. This exam will count 20% of the final grade for that semester. The first grading period will count 26% and the second and third grading periods will be 27% of the final semester grade.

Students in PreAP Biology will be assigned a weighted factor of an additional 10 points in the grade point average if the final grade in the class is 70% or above. Weighted grading shall be reflected in the student's GPA and not numerically per course on either the student's report card or transcript.

End of Course Exams:

Mansfield ISD will comply with state law and give the End of Course (EOC) exam to each student in Biology. Students must pass this exam in order to receive points towards graduation. Results do not affect the grade received for the class.

Course Basic Outline

First Grading Period:
(Aug 22-Sept 30)

Lab Safety

Biochemistry

Cellular Structure and Function

Cellular Transport

Second Grading Period:
(Oct 3- Nov 4)

Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration

Cell Cycle, Mitosis, Chromosomes, and Meiosis

Mendelian Genetics

Third Grading Period:
(Nov 7 - Dec 16)

Non-Mendelian Genetics

DNA, DNA replication, and Protein Synthesis

Genetic Mutations

SEMESTER EXAM

Fourth Grading Period:
(Jan 3 - Feb 17)

Genetic Engineering

Evolution

Ecology, Biogeochemical Cycles, and Biomes

Fifth Grading Period:
(Feb 21 - Apr 13)

Classification and Taxonomy

Plant Structure and Function

Animals: Invertebrates and Vertebrates

Systems Interactions

Sixth Grading Period:
(Apr 18 - Jun 2)

EOC Review Days

EOC STAAR TEST

Human Body Systems

Final Exam