

# General Biology Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Marianne Donley

Website: www.mdonley.com

e-mail: marianne.donley@neomin.org

Prep./Conference Period: TBA

Course Description Per Course Catalogue: This course is an introduction to the natural world. The course includes a study of the cell, plant and animal structures, protists, genetics, taxonomy, ecology, and an introduction to evolution. The course will be taught with an emphasis on developing skills in the use of basic laboratory techniques and laboratory apparatus. Labs will utilize inquiry methods. Notebooks and other projects may be required for the completion of this course.

## Biology:

This biology course involves the scientific study of living organisms. The course considers the interactions among the vast number of organisms that inhabit planet Earth. It presents the basic form and function of these organisms, from cells to organ systems, from simple unicellular organisms to complex humans. It delves into interactions between organisms, and between an organism and its environment. It also looks into biotechnology, how it is used in today's society.

This is an interactive, highly hands-on course in biology. Students are exposed to what it means to be living from the cellular level right through to complex forms with an emphasis on the interconnectedness of all organism and their environment. Through out the study, students are encouraged to apply critical thinking, ask questions, and explore the nature of science.

The course is built upon the following themes:

- Nature of Science (science as a process)
- Unity with Diversity
- Systems and interactions
- Evolution
- Science, technology, and society

## Materials:

1. Textbook – must be signed and covered. This will be provided by the end of week two or upon completion of major schedule changes.)
2. Writing utensil – you must supply your own pen or pencil daily. Pencils must be used for microscope drawings.
3. 3-Ring Binder –this should be at least a 1 inch binder; bring daily for notes, handouts, and sketches. (This serves as your notebook for the course.)
4. Science fee – must be paid A.S.A.P. once they have been adopted. In the past this has been \$15.
5. Metric ruler
6. A thumb drive – for storing computer generated information.
7. Calculator – a simple one to add, subtract, multiply, and divide.
8. Paper- Loose leaf (Some printer paper will be used as well, but not enough to require purchasing a ream.)
9. You – you are required to attend class on a regular basis.

## Grading:

1. Grading scale: A=93-100%  
B= 84-92%  
C= 74-83%  
D= 65-73%  
F= 0-64%
2. Grades will be given for tests, quizzes, homework, labs, student response system lecture questions, presentations, projects, etc.
  - a. Each week there is a set of multiple choice review questions, which are completed and graded on-line with immediate feedback.
3. There will be only a few extra credit opportunities a year. Generally once per grade period.
4. Point deductions will be made for lab violations / horseplay.

## Extra Help:

I encourage you get extra help when you need it. I am usually available after school, but check with me to make sure I don't have a meeting or other appointment.

## Topics

### Semester 1:

Intro- To Biology (What is Biology, What is science)

How scientists/biologists work

Graphing

Data Tables

Data Collection and Analysis

Microscopes

Microscope Drawings

Basic Biological Drawings

Sampling Methods

Dissections

Directional Terminology

Pressings/Mountings

Ecology

Sampling

Food chains/food webs

Trophic levels

Classification of organisms by feeding types

Classification

History/People

Domains

Kingdoms

Scientific names

Cladistics (intro. only)

Plants

Divisions

Gymnosperms

Angiosperms

Monocots/Dicots

Reproduction

Grow

Roots/Stems/Leaves- Structures and functions

Plant Clones

Dissections

Cells

Structures and functions of structures

Osmosis/Diffusion

Cell Cycle

Phases and periods

Mitosis

Meiosis

### Semester 2:

Genetics

Classical

Mendel

Punnett and Punnett Squares

Dominance and recessiveness

Sex Linked Traits

Incomplete Dominance

Co-dominance

Modern/Applied

Karyotypes

Genetic Diseases

Pedigrees

Symbolization

Determining Genotypes

DNA Analysis

DNA History

DNA structure

Mutations

DNA Extraction

DNA Electrophoresis

DNA fingerprint/Profiles

(History and Reading)

Genetic Engineering

Cloning

Protists

Phyla

Importance/Uses

Animalia

Phyla and classes

Focus on

Porifera

Cnidaria

Nemotoda

Platyhelminthes

Annelida

Echinodermata

Molluska – dependant upon time

Arthropoda – dependant upon time

Amphibia

Dissections

Comparative anatomy

Structure and Function

Evolution

History/People

Change over time

Law of Uses and Disuse

Law of Acquired Characteristics

Survival of the Fit