Biology and Honors Biology Syllabus 2018-2019

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MATERIALS NEEDED:

* 1-Three-ring binder (1 inch)
* Pencils and pens
* Notebook paper
* Box of Kleenex

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Biology is the study of living organisms, their origins, how they survive, reproduce, change over time, and interact with each other and their environment. The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a fundamental understanding of modern biology and scientific processes. These topics will be examined through both class work and the laboratory.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE: (This may change at any time)

1st Six Weeks --------------Safety/Scientific Method/Biochemistry/Properties of Water

2nd Six Weeks--------------The Cell/Cellular Processes

3rd Six Weeks--------------Genetics & Heredity

4th Six Weeks--------------Evolution/Classification/Microorganisms

5th Six Weeks--------------Plants/Animals/Body Systems

6th Six Weeks--------------Ecology
\*\*All dissections will be done during the second semester.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

* 60% Exams, Projects, Major Labs
* 40% Daily work, Labs, Quizzes, and Homework

LATE & MISSING WORK POLICY:
If you have any late or missing work it will be accepted and graded as follows:

* 1 day late = results in a grade no higher than a 70
* 2 days late = results in a grade no higher than a 50
* 3 or more days late = no late work accepted and will result in a zero.

TUTORIALS:
I am available for tutorials every morning from 7:40-8:00 and every afternoon from 3:30-4:00. *PLEASE* use these to your advantage. Do not wait until you are so far behind that we can never catch up before you come in for help. Please come in as soon as you are feeling lost and I will help you!

TEXTBOOKS:
We have a class set of Biology textbooks that we will use in class. Every student will also have access to the complete textbook online as well as many resources the textbook offers online. Students are also allowed to check out a textbook for the night.

PROJECTS:

* Projects will not be returned and will become the property of IPHS Science Department once they are turned in.
* There will be periodic projects assigned throughout the year.
* There is not an Insect and Flower collection anymore in Biology.

LABS:
Laboratory experimentation and exploration are a large part of this course. It is vital that the students follow all laboratory procedures and safety rules/guidelines. Failure to comply with behavior expectations can result in removal from the lab activities. A safety contract will be sent home and filled out by the student and parent/guardian. These documents will be kept on file and are needed before a student can participate in any labs.

STUDY TECHNIQUES:
The most common problem of students is that their study skills are not adequate for high school level classes. Studying for classes involves more than just “cramming the night before a test”. The following are suggestions to improve your grade in Biology and other high school courses.

1. Prepare for class before coming in by reading over your notes soon after you have written them.
2. Use your vocabulary list.
3. Do all worksheets, study questions, etc.
4. Keep your handouts, lecture notes, and study questions in your notebook ALL YEAR. We will reference back to these when we start reviewing for your Biology EOC test.
5. Pay attention and don’t daydream and goof off during class.
6. Study frequently and in small doses. Cramming does not allow for long term understanding that will stick with you!
7. Set up study groups and study with friends.
8. COME IN FOR TUTORIALS. Do not wait until the day of the test to come in and get some help. I cannot make miracles occur. Please utilize tutorial times prior to getting behind

PARENTS & GUARDIANS:
Our goal is to provide a safe and quality learning experience for each of our students. We teach because we love young people and we are always willing to do what is in their best interest, fairly. We appreciate and welcome parental input and support. We consider you to be vital to your child’s success. All students entering high school are required to pass the STAAR (EOC) Biology test to graduate. The material that we will be learning in Biology is critical to successful performance on their Biology EOC test that they will take in May. All curriculum is steered toward the state TEKS objectives, which are topics for the teacher to cover for End of Course (EOC) test preparation. It is important that each student understand what will be expected of them. Encouragement from home is very helpful in accomplishing our goals. For more information on the requirements of these new exams, you can visit the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website, which is accessible through the Iowa Park High School website.

Your child will receive a three week progress report and a six week report card each grading period. If your child is not passing, you will receive a three week progress report through e-mail (if the school has a current email address) or through the mail if no email is on file. Please access Skyward (our grade book program) periodically if you have internet access at home or have a smart phone (there is a Skyward App) to check your child’s grades so that there are no surprises when progress reports and report cards come out and you can help us stay on top of your child’s grades. If we can be of any assistance to you, please contact us at 940-592-2144, and we will get back with you as soon as we can, or feel free to email us at any time at jvest@ipcisd.net or kdavis@ipcisd.net

**\*\* Also make sure you are signed up with the schools Skylert system because that is what we will use to send out reminders on test, quizzes, projects etc.**