

The Classical Academy
Honors Biology
Course Outline and Syllabus
Mrs. Sophia Smith
2022- 2023

CONTACT AND GENERAL INFO

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Phone Number: 719-484-0091 ext. 2254

Biology Text: Miller, Levine. Miller & Levine Biology. Pearson Education, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. 2014.

Extra help times: Visit me during flex, lunch or after school (3-4 pm) and by appointment.

Dear Students,

I'm really looking forward to our school year together! My hope is that this year you learn a lot about the world we live in and how it works. I assure you, at times this biology class will be hard work, but I think you will find it both interesting and rewarding. Prepare to be both challenged and satisfied. You will find that I will always make myself available to help you succeed in this class.

This syllabus has lots of information you need and it should stay in your biology notebook. Please review all the information carefully and ask your parents to do the same. You will find the outline of behavior expectations, the supplies you'll need for class, academic expectations, grading policies, topics we will cover, etc. I'll need both your and your parent's signature indicating that you have read and agree with the information. Most of you know the routine. ☺

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. **Be *Respectful*:** Respect your teacher, classmates, and the materials in our classroom. This is a safe environment where you can express your ideas, but this means we agree to be supportive, kind, and encouraging to those around you and always act with integrity.
2. **Be *Responsible*:** Turn in assignments on time, take notes during class, and be organized.
3. **Be *Prepared*:** Be in your seat when the bell rings, with your materials on your desk and assignments completed.
4. **Participate:** Participate in **all** of the activities, labs, and discussions we have in class. Participating is key in order to learn, so I expect you to participate as much as you can daily. Asking questions is encouraged!

BEHAVIOR VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

If the above expectations are not met, consequences will follow. Inappropriate behavior will be followed with an appropriate consequence such as detention, conversations with me, contacting parents, etc.

* I reserve the right to assign consequences at a level consistent with classroom behavior depending on the severity of disrespectful or disruptive action/attitude.

CLASS WEBSITE (SCHOOLGY)

Our class website is on **Schoology** (<http://asd20.schoology.com/>). You should automatically have access to the Honors Biology course. (Find it by logging in → click on “Courses” → choose “Honors Biology”)

You’ll find the following on the website:

1. **Daily Agenda Updates:** Click on the “updates” tab and you will see what we did each day and the HW or assignments attached. This should be the first place to go when you are absent from class and then come talk to your teacher.
2. **Course Powerpoints and Handouts:** If you want to review the powerpoints, or need to print off a handout that you lost from class, you can find them on Schoology under the “materials” tab.

POLICIES

Tardies: Being late to class is not acceptable, you have 2 warnings and then consequences escalate from there (ex: phone call to parents, lunch detention, after-school detention). See school policy for more information.

Homework: School wide policy is that students are expected to self-advocate. Late assignments will be marked 20% off until the end of that unit. After the unit is over, they are a 0 and those points cannot be made up.

Late pass: I issue one homework late pass for standard assignments. With the pass, you can turn in the assignment any time during that unit and not receive the late penalty to the grade. *You still need to do the assignment!* If you don’t use it, you can pass it back in at the end of the semester. I’ll give you 5 extra credit points! Woo!

Infinite Campus Warning: When I enter grades I immediately mark assignments that have not been turned in as “missing” (0 points) on IC and change them to “late” when I later receive them. *“Missing” (and late) assignments rapidly decrease grades.* Do everything you can to complete and turn in assignments on time.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism or any form of copying from the internet, student, or other sources on quizzes, tests, and specified individual work will result in a zero for that assignment, an office referral, and parent notification.

Absence/Attendance: *YOU* are required to check the Absent Bin, Mrs. Smith’s BILL, and the agenda on Schoology if you are absent. You will receive **1 day** to turn in assignments for each day you are absent.

Lab Safety: It is imperative that students use safe laboratory techniques at all times. Failure to adhere to the safety requirements in the lab will result in the removal of the student from the lab (and a zero for that lab’s grade) to safeguard the entire class and their work.

SUPPLIES

1. **Personal supplies:**
 - a. 2 graph paper composition notebooks (we will be turning them into an interactive notebook this year)
 - b. Writing utensils (pencils, colored pens, red pen, highlighters)
 - c. 1 Dry erase marker
 - d. 1 roll of tape
 - e. Post it divider tabs (for your composition notebook- optional)
 - f. Calculator
2. **Classroom use (Generic brands work!)**
 - a. Last Names A-M: Box of tissues
 - b. Last Names N-Z: Clorox wipes OR roll of paper towels

TOPICS

Fall Semester: Foundation Information of Living Organisms

- Unit 1: Scientific Method
- Unit 2: Chemistry of Life
- Unit 3: Cells: Structure and Function
- Unit 4: Cell Energy: Photosynthesis and Cell Respiration
- Unit 5: Cell Reproduction: Cell Cycle, Mitosis, and Meiosis

Spring Semester: Groups of Organisms – Structure, Function and Life Cycles

- Unit 6: Genetics
- Unit 7: Gene Expression: DNA, RNA and Genetic Engineering
- Unit 8: Evolution
- Unit 9: Kingdoms of Life: Viruses, Bacteria, Protists, Fungi, Plants and Animals
- Unit 10: Ecology

GRADING

This class will use the standard grade scale at TCA (93 – 100% = A, 90 – 92.9% = A-, etc.).

APPROXIMATE GRADE PERCENTAGES

35%: Assessments (Tests, quizzes, etc.)

25%: Lab Work (Labs, reports, and projects)

25%: Daily Work (Homework, handouts, in class activities)

15%: Final Exam (One per semester)

** All of the above are approximates and are subject to change. Nothing is weighted in my class, which means everything stays consistent with the points given for each assignment. Ex: Test is worth 100 points while a Homework assignment might be 10 points.*

Rip off and return this page to school no later than Monday, August 30. Thanks!

TEACHER- STUDENT CONTRACT

Teacher: I, Mrs. Smith, will facilitate a fair, stimulating, and consistent learning environment. I will include constructive learning activities, return student work in a timely fashion, and be available for students if they need extra help. My goal is for each student to learn, and I will do my best to help each student learn the required content no matter what it takes.



Student and Parent/Guardian: I, _____ (student name), have read the attached expectations, grading policy, and communication guidelines and agree to follow them. I understand that this class runs on respect, responsibility, preparedness, and participation and will work hard to follow these expectations and policies. I will contact Mrs. Smith as soon as possible with any questions or concerns.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Note: Please make sure your email addresses and phone numbers are up to date in Infinite Campus. This way I can contact you easily when necessary.