

CP Biology

Mrs. Deb Schenk

419-222-4276 ext. 2606

dschenk@apps.lcchs.edu

Texts and Other Materials:

Miller & Levine Biology

Notebook or binder for class notes and class work, book cover, writing utensils, colored pencils, 1 box of tissues or 1 roll of paper towels

Course Description:

Biology examines the structure, function, growth, origin, evolution, distribution, and classification of all living things. Traditionally, the specialized disciplines of biology have been grouped by the type of organism being studied: botany, the study of plants; zoology, the study of animals; and microbiology, the study of microorganisms. Our study will be much broader in scope.

Our biological studies will be further divided into the following areas: biochemistry which examines the fundamental chemistry of life; molecular biology which studies the complex interactions of biological molecules; cellular biology which examines the basic building block of all life, the cell; physiology which examines the physical and chemical functions of tissues and organ systems; and ecology which examines how organisms interact with each other and their environment.

The fundamental focus of this course is for students to acquire basic knowledge in how and why the survival of all living things depends upon a fragile balance between themselves and the world in which they live. Units to be investigated include:

- The Nature of Life (Chapters 1-2)
- Ecology (Chapters 3-6)
- Cells (Chapters 7-10)
- Genetics (Chapters 11-15)
- Evolution (Chapters 16-19)
- Diversity of Life: From Microorganisms to Animals (Chapters 20-29)

Course Outcomes:

After completing the high school science curriculum, students will be able to:

- Identify questions and concepts that guide scientific investigations;
- Design and conduct scientific investigations;
- Use technology and mathematics to improve investigations and communications;
- Formulate and revise explanations and models using logic and evidence (critical thinking);
- Recognize and analyze explanations and models; and
- Communicate and support a scientific argument.

Course Calendar:

There will typically be a test consisting of multiple choice, matching, document/graphical analysis, and essay after every chapter. There may also be one reflection paper assigned during each quarter over various topics. Periodically labs and lab activities will be done in class, the purpose of which will be to demonstrate or investigate material being studied in class. There will be a comprehensive semester and final exam. There will also be regular reading and other assignments as well as quizzes deriving from the text and class discussion. All assignments will be posted in class, on Edmodo.com, and on Progress Book. Projects, such as development of cell models and/or DNA models, will be assigned. Instructions for projects will be posted online and distributed to students when appropriate. Study will also include dissection of fetal pigs following the investigation of structure and function of organ systems in living organisms.

Course Strategies:

To be successful in this class, students need to come to class daily with all of the required materials and the reading and/or homework. Students will succeed if they take good notes, ask questions, and display necessary effort in learning. Biology students are successful because they read the text when assigned, complete their work on time, prepare well in advance for tests/quizzes, and, most of all, put forth effort every day in class. ***When absent, it is the student's responsibility to make up work. By using their iPad to search on Edmodo.com and/or Progress Book, students can find what was done in class and what work is due upon their return to school.***

Class Expectations:

- All students are required to bring all materials, including a **notebook, text, their iPad, and writing utensils** every class period.
 - Students **will NOT** be allowed to go to lockers to get materials they did not bring to class. This includes work that is due at the beginning of class.
- Assignments will be due at the beginning of class. All work should be turned in to the designated homework tray after the tardy bell rings. **Late work will NOT be accepted.**
 - Absence – work due the day the student is absent is due the day he/she returns to school, even if it is a day when the class does not meet (block days).
 - All work will be posted on Edmodo and/or Progress Book. It is the student's responsibility to find out what was done in class, what work is due, and when it is due.
 - iPads should go home with the student each day. If they are absent, they can still keep up with assignments at home and nothing should be late when they return to school.
 - Students should meet with the teacher the day they return to be sure they receive any instructional materials they may have missed during their absence.
- There will be a comprehensive **semester exam** and **end-of-year exam** as well as several quizzes and smaller tests throughout the course. Students will be informed of a test a few days prior to its administration. Pop Quizzes are rare but possible. Quizzes will usually be administered after a lesson, and a test will normally be given after a chapter.
 - Absence – if a student is absent on the day of a test or quiz, they will be expected to make up the test or quiz the day they return to school, even if it is a block day when they do not have class.
 - Students must make it a habit to see all teachers to make arrangements to take make-up tests/quizzes the day they return to school and, if necessary, prepare to stay after school to complete this work.
 - If more than one day is missed, other arrangements will be made, but the student must see the teacher the day they return to school to make these arrangements.
- Students will be respectful of all school property and the property of other students at all times.
 - If a student damages school property, they will be financially responsible for its replacement and may have disciplinary consequences as well.
 - If a student damages another student's property, there will be disciplinary consequences.
 - Disciplinary measures taken could include demerits, detention, and/or removal from class.
- Students will be silent during announcements, when others are speaking, and will pray with the class at the beginning of each class.
 - Talking during announcements, when others are speaking, or during prayer will result in disciplinary action that could include loss of participation points, demerits, detentions, and/or removal from class.
- Students will actively participate in all class work without being disruptive and will follow lab safety rules when participating in labs.
 - Non-participation will result in loss of participation points and/or demerits. Sleeping in class will result in detention and/or removal from class.
 - Breaching lab safety rules or lab instructions will result in expulsion from the lab and a 0 grade for that lab.
 - If this occurs more than once, the student will not be allowed to participate in class labs and will have to make up work as assigned.
 - Students are expected to remain attentive in class. Working on assignments / preparing for other classes will not be tolerated during Biology class.
 - Loss of participation points, demerits, detentions, loss of work (for the other class) may result.

Grade Components:

I will be using the Lima Central Catholic grading scale (found in the student handbook) to determine grades and grades will be weighted as follows:

Tests / projects = 50%

Quizzes / labs = 30%

Assignments / pop quizzes / participation = 20%

Extra credit will not be given to "boost" grades. Extra / optional assignments may be given, but will be offered to the entire class and graded as any other assignment. There is no guarantee that an "A" will result from extra work.

Please let me know if you are struggling in the class...before material is tested. Use study halls to get help when you struggle. National Honor Society students are generally available on Wednesdays after school for tutoring. I will also be available before and after school and by appointment. Please feel free to approach me if/when you have a problem. My door is always open and I urge that you come and see me with any concerns. I am looking forward to a great year. Let's work together to make your year in Biology an enjoyable experience!!

--Mrs. Schenk