

# Biology Syllabus

Mr. Cameron Potts

## Course Overview

Welcome to Biology with Mr. Potts! I am very excited to explore the vibrant and lively world of Biology with you this year, and I mean LIVE-ly, because *biology is the study of life*! We will explore everything from atoms (the LEGO building blocks of, well, everything), DNA (the blueprints of life), cells (the smallest unit of life. You are made of 30 trillion of them!), and immunity (why you're not sick after eating dirt), just to name a few. This course will help you understand how life is possible, where it even came from, what a virus is, how vaccines work, and even how to find a murderer! So come along with me, Mr. Potts, your teacher and guide, and let's start living!

## Class Values

Values are immensely important to me, and especially society. It's how we, as unique individuals, can function together and respect one another. This is no different in our class. So, to have a productive year, we hold ourselves to the below values in how we work together:

Respect others and yourself

Excellence is the expectation (give it your best)

Stay organized

Proactivity pays off

Everyone is welcome

Communicate well

Take responsibility and Timeliness matters

We will define what these mean and look like in action when we meet in class on Day One

## Supply List

All materials should be acquired no later than the start of the second week of school (Jan. 8).

- ☐ 3-Ring Binder (1.5" recommended)
- ☐ Five Dividers
- ☐ Notebook Looseleaf Paper (not a spiral notebook)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Pens & Pencils
- ☐ Colored Pencils
- ☐ Whiteout (if using pen)

Also, consider picking up one or two of the below to contribute to the classroom supply

- |                                                         |                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kleenex                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Glue Sticks                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-colored, Liquid Food Dye | <input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped, no nuts) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Wash Dish Detergent       |                                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colored Pencils                |                                                                |

## Communication

Communication is absolutely key to success, in this class and elsewhere! Therefore, it is important that you know the appropriate mediums of communication. Below are some key questions and answers about how communication will be done in this class:

Where will I receive updates about class?

1. [Email](#)! Check this daily. This is the #1 place to find communication from me.
2. Canvas Announcements
3. [Remind App](#)
4. In class

How should I contact Mr. Potts?

1. [Email](#)! I will respond to all student emails at my earliest opportunity, or within 24 hours.
2. [Remind App](#)

How should I NOT contact Mr. Potts?

- If it ain't 1 or 2, don't do it! It's that simple :)

## Grading

| What              | How                  | Value |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Major Assessments | Tests & Projects     | 50%   |
| Minor Assessments | Labs & Quizzes       | 30%   |
| Daily Assessments | Classwork & Homework | 20%   |

### Laboratory Grading Policy

Safety in the science laboratory is very important and goofing off in lab will result in a **zero** for the lab assignment. All students will sign a lab safety at the beginning of the school year. Students will not be able to participate in labs until the agreement is signed and submitted.

## **Late Policy**

Paper work is due by the start of class the following school day. It must be submitted to the appropriate turn-in bin at the front of class. If digital, submitted to the appropriate assignment page in Canvas by the due date and time indicated in Canvas. Do not email the submission to me, it will not be accepted.

Should the student fail to meet the deadline, the student may submit it, but it will receive a letter grade (10%) deduction per day late, for up to 50% off. After the fifth day, late work will no longer be accepted. A 0 will be input into Canvas & PowerSchool until the assignment is submitted and graded.

The late penalty only applies on school days for paper assignments, as students are unable to submit it. However, the late penalty still applies to digital assignments, as students are able to submit it digitally.

### **Late Policy Exceptions**

Tardiness: No exemption will be given to students who arrive late to class. The instructor will provide the missed assignments, if applicable, but the student is responsible for making time to make up work.

Excused Absences: Absences communicated to me prior to the class day as well as submitting a parent/guardian-signed note to the front office within 2 days or return will be allowed to make up that day's work with no late penalty for three days after the absence, after which the late penalty will apply (minus 10% per day late).

Unexcused Absences: Unexcused absences will not receive any exception to the late policy, given the teacher provides an alternate means, such as a digital copy and submission, to complete an assignment by 5:00 PM the day of the absence. If the teacher does not, a one day exemption will be permitted, after which the late penalty will apply (minus 10% per day late).

Remember, make up work is *your* responsibility. Feel free to email me if you are confused.

## **Cell Phone Policy**

In accordance with the West Stanly High School cell phone policy in the Student Handbook, students *must* do the below as they enter the classroom:

- Silence their phone
- Place it in their book.
- Remove headphones and place them in their bookbag.

Students are not permitted to take their phones to the restroom, as it must remain in the book bag during the instructional block. If a parent needs to communicate an urgent matter during instructional time, please contact the front office, who will notify the classroom via intercom.

Should the student violate any of the above, the following consequences shall be applied:

- 1st offense
  - Cell phone/Electronic Devices taken by teacher and returned to student *at the end of the class*.
  - The incident will be recorded using Educator's Handbook as a minor.
  - The *classroom teacher will make contact with the Parent/Guardian* and ensure parents/guardians are aware of the cell phone procedures and policy.
- 2nd offense
  - Cell phone/Electronic Devices taken by teacher and given to administration.
  - The classroom teacher will record the incident using Educator's Handbook as an office referral.
  - Parent contacted by the teacher.
  - The student must pick up the cell phone/electronic device from the front office *at the end of the day*.
  - Administrative conference with the student.
- 3rd and subsequent offenses
  - Cell phones/Electronic Devices taken by the teacher and given to administration.
  - The classroom teacher will record the incident using Educator's Handbook as an office referral.
  - *The Parent/Guardian must pick up the cell phone from the front office.*

## Remote Learning

Should a student be absent due to an excused absence, COVID quarantine, or other approved exceptional circumstance, Mr. Potts will make opportunities for the student to participate and keep pace with the class via Google Meet. However, the student must first notify Mr. Potts by email as soon as they know they will be absent for extended periods of time. Below are expectations for any student attending class via Google Meet:

1. Arrive early.
2. Camera remains on with the student's entire face in full view at all times.
  - A student may be permitted to use the restroom if requested, just as if in class.
3. Mute your microphone.
4. Participate! Respond to questions and polls, especially when called upon.
5. The student is dressed appropriately, as if at school physically.