



Biology Team

Course Syllabus 2025-2026



"IT'S NOT THE STRONGEST OF THE SPECIES THAT SURVIVES, NOR THE MOST INTELLIGENT THAT SURVIVES. IT'S THE ONE THAT IS THE MOST ADAPTABLE TO CHANGE"
CHARLES DARWIN

Biology Teacher Names & Contact Information

Teachers will send a personal invitation to your frogrock email

Jim Corsetti: jcorsetti@bisd303.org

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Materials Needed: Dedicated 1 inch binder

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Course Information

Welcome to an exciting year-long study of Biology. As a student in this course, you will have many opportunities to formulate hypotheses, perform experiments with sophisticated laboratory equipment, analyze data, and refine scientific models. I believe you will find this course to be both exciting and intellectually engaging. The course follows the "Next Generation Science Standards" (NGSS) and has been broken down into the following important scientific topics:

Semester 1 - Systems & Scale - Animals - Plants - Decomposers - Ecosystems

Unifying practice for semester 1 units include tracing the **flow of matter and energy** as it passes through living systems.

Semester 2 - Cells & DNA - Genetics - Evolution

Unifying practice for semester 2 units include tracing the **flow of information** as it passes through living systems.

Format

This course is designed for students to be able to access all content and activities using Google Classroom.

For the current BHS schedule, please see the [BHS website](#) or [student portal](#). You are expected to be fully present and engaged in learning activities related to this class during that time.

Each student is assessed a \$15 fee per school year to cover consumable lab expenses. This fee is payable through the BHS online payment system or by check or cash in the BHS accounting office. Fee waivers are available for families in need of financial assistance. For information on fee waivers, visit bhs.bisd303.org and click on the financial assistance button.

Course Site

Assignments will be posted and submitted via each class period's Google Classroom. Students must join their class period's Google Classrooms to access learning activities and other important information. An invitation with class codes to your teacher's Google Classroom will be sent to your frogrock email or given out the first week of school.

If parents & guardians wish to receive the weekly Google Classroom summaries for their students, please send one of their teachers an email request within the first week. If you have received these emails before, you should not need to take action, you are already registered as their guardian.

Learning Objectives

Each unit of study for this course will have clearly defined learning standards; students are expected to commit themselves to master these standards to the best of their ability. These learning standards will be interspersed throughout the unit and will be made clear. Students will have several opportunities to self assess their progress towards meeting them. Here is a sample of the learning objectives that students will be addressing.

Learning Resources

More tools may be used in class, such as Quizlet, Kahoot, Flipgrid, Goformative, Pivot Interactives, Edpuzzle, Kamipro, Padlet, HHMI biointeractive and PHET interactives. Students will be instructed on how to use these tools. All assignments will be posted on Google Classroom, which students should check daily.

Policies & Procedures

Attendance and Engagement are key to success in this classroom. Daily, on-time attendance is expected of all students, as is full engagement in the instruction and activities that have been designed to support your learning.

Please note that make-up work is not an equal substitute for onsite instruction and interaction with peers in the learning environment, and will not be offered for unexcused absences or truancy.

Entering and Leaving the Classroom

In this classroom, the learning begins and ends with the classroom bell. It is the expectation that students are in the classroom and ready to learn when the beginning bell rings. You are also expected to remain in the classroom throughout the class period with the exception of emergency breaks or scheduled appointments.

If you are tardy, go to class as quickly as possible, and enter in a way that honors the learning in progress. You must sign in at the attendance office and get a late pass if you arrive on campus after 8:55 am.

If you need an unexpected and unavoidable break, sign out of class on the “SmartPass” computer using the following guidelines (*these can be modified to meet your classroom, using this as a starting point*):

- Do not sign out for the first or last 5 minutes of class
- One student may be out at a time
- Sign out will only be available during independent work time and not when the teacher is giving directions or lecturing
- Make sure to leave your cellphone in the classroom, as any phones in the hallway/restrooms will be confiscated.

Note that failure to use the hall pass system, excessively long tardies or classroom absences, or leaving the classroom without permission for reasons other than the stated purpose will result in a “missing partial class” (MPC) attendance designation and possible disciplinary action.

Academic Honesty

Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Academic integrity is a compelling principle by which we operate all aspects of student and school life, and is highly valued at BHS. Students should not cheat or plagiarize, nor should they tolerate such among fellow students. Students do not receive credit for work that is not their own. Cheating is defined as an attempt to earn credit or receive a grade for coursework in a manner other than defined as acceptable by the teacher. Plagiarism is the taking of language, ideas or thoughts from another person or resource without acknowledging the source. Students who use plagiarized papers or projects or are involved in any other form of cheating will be subject to reduction in grades and/or disciplinary action for a first offense. Because of the serious nature of academic integrity, violations of this code may result in loss of credit for the assignment with a recorded failing grade. It may also entail loss of credit for the course with a recorded failing grade, removal from the course with a failing grade, and/ or additional appropriate disciplinary action. ([BISD Student Handbook](#))

Communications and Self-Advocacy

Students need to be comfortable advocating for themselves. If you have questions or concerns, please email your teacher and/or counselor. We cannot help you unless we know what you need.

Grading

Coursework 10%: This category includes in-class activities, homework, and binder checks. Homework is graded on completion and mistakes are expected to be corrected in order to gain a better understanding of the material.

Mastery of Standards 90%

Biology standards assessments will include multiple-choice, short answer, diagramming, projects, and debates depending on the concepts learned in each unit. There will be a cumulative final at the conclusion of each semester. Students will create a study guide before each assessment. Reassessments are available.

We will be using Standards Based Grading but are still required to convert the grade to a traditional scale.

Letter grades are calculated using the following grading scale using Standards Based Grading:

Grade			
Mark	Description	High	Low
A	A	100.00%	93.00%
A-	A-	92.99%	90.00%
B+	B+	89.99%	87.00%
B	B	86.99%	83.00%
B-	B-	82.99%	80.00%
C+	C+	79.99%	77.00%
C	C	76.99%	73.00%
C-	C-	72.99%	70.00%
D+	D+	69.99%	67.00%
D	D	66.99%	60.00%
F	F	59.99%	0.00%

4-point scale	Correlating letter grade	Description
4	A	Exemplary work. Mastery. Exceeds grade-level standard.
3	B	Proficient work. Accomplished. Meets grade-level standard.
2	C	Emerging work. Developing. Approaching standard.
1	D	Insufficient work. Basic. Below standard.
0	F	No evidence of work. Missing. Well below standard.

Submitting Assignments

- **Turning in work:** Any assignments listed under the **Classwork** tab in Google Classroom should be submitted by the due date according to the listed instructions.
- **Late Work:** Students are expected to check our Google Classrooms for homework assignments and links to useful resources. All assignments should be turned in on time according to the due date on Google classroom. An absence does not excuse you from the daily expectations and activities of the class. If you are sick, email me to let me know. We will negotiate an appropriate due date.
- **Resubmissions:** Practice of Standards work may not be resubmitted. Any graded assignment in the Mastery of Standards category may be reassessed pending teacher approval and must be done within a two week period from when the assessment is returned. Please make an appointment to go over any standard that you need more clarification on prior to an assessment.

Lab Safety

Lab safety is extremely important and guidelines must be followed. Any student caught violating the safety rules for the science class will not be allowed to participate in certain lab activities for the remainder of the semester and will be required to complete supplemental work for all subsequent labs. A safety lecture and examination will be conducted during the first week of the school year. Students are expected to get 100% on this examination to participate in lab activities. A safety lecture will accompany all laboratory activities. If you are not present for safety instruction, for the safety of all concerned, you will not be permitted to participate in the lab portion in which safety is a concern.

[Safety Contract Link](#)

Technology

- Your Chromebook will not be used every day however to fully participate in this course, you will need to have access to your BISD chromebook or a similar device every day in class and sometimes at home. Your device must be charged daily and in full working order, with a functional camera, speaker and microphone. I will not provide “spare” chargers if your Chromebook has insufficient charge.
- For tech support, please go to https://bisd303.org/25646_3 and report your issue. This includes getting help to troubleshoot your device and setup at home.

AI

Collaboration with ChatGPT or other AI composition software is permitted in this course with appropriate documentation of how it was used and for what purpose.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT or Google Gemini can be valuable resources for learning, but they are not a replacement for your own thinking. You may use AI to help brainstorm ideas, check your understanding, or explore different ways of approaching a problem. However, all work you submit must reflect your own reasoning, analysis, and voice.

Assignments generated fully or primarily by AI will not be eligible for credit. Relying on AI to do the work for you will limit your growth and your ability to succeed in this class. Using AI well means allowing it to guide your learning, not replace it. When in doubt, ask me how AI might be used appropriately for an assignment.