

Village Oaks High School
Biology NGSS
Mr. Thomas / Room 11
Course Syllabus

Course Description

Biology is a natural science concerned with the study of life and living matter in all its forms. This course will focus around four areas of biology: Structure and Function, Genetics, Evolution, and Ecology. Each area will be broken into more specific topics where students will learn about essential biological concepts, build upon previous life and academic experiences, and use new experiences to explain various phenomena of living organisms and relevant interactions with planet Earth.

Course Texts/Curriculum

Miller & Levine - Experience Biology The Living Earth

Supplemental materials from Explore learning and STEMscopes

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays at lunch

Classroom Rules/Procedures

Assignments

- Assignments are to be turned into the trays on my desk.
- Please turn in neat papers - Paper is to be 8 1/2 by 11 inches, not ripped from a spiral notebook, not crumpled up and no drawings on your papers unless part of the assignment

Missed School Days

- You have one day to turn in the assignment for each day absent. Just because the absence is excused does not mean that you do not have to do the work.

Start of Class

- When the class starts you are expected to be in your seats and ready to learn. Look to the blackboard for directions for the day and please follow them.
- Seats will be assigned as deemed necessary

End of the Class Period.

- Please wait to be excused. Do not get up when the bell rings. I will excuse you.
- All books and equipment will be put back in their proper order. All chairs pushed in and all trash picked up

Tardies

- If you are late for class, you must bring a tardy slip from the office or a note from a teacher.

Cell Phones

- We will be following the district cell phone policy. Phones will be **turned off** and collected at the start of the period and returned at the end of class.

Village Oaks High School Grading Policy

90% - 100%	A	5 credits
80% - 89%	B	5 credits
70% - 79%	C	5 credits
60% - 69%	D	5 credits
59% and below	F	0 credits

Semester grade is determined by the ongoing accumulation of points throughout the semester. These points come from classwork/homework, tests and class participation

Late work

Late assignments due to an excused absence will receive full credit, if received within the same number of days for which you were absent. For example, if you were out for two days, your assignments will be due two days after you return to school; 4 days absent, 4 days to turn in the work, etc. It is your responsibility to find out what was missed, complete it, and turn it in within this time period. Late work for any other reason will be accepted for half credit but must be turned in before the *chapter test or the semester final exam*.

Cheating/plagiarism - Please refer to Honor Code on the Parent/Student Signature page

Needed Supplies

You need to bring the following with you to class every day:

- Pen and pencil,
- Paper (8 1/2 by 11 inches binder paper)
- Composition notebook A folder to keep your work in.

Contact Information

You may contact me via email at mthomas@lUSD.net. Or if you choose, you may call the office at 953-8740 and leave a message for me. I will return your call as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Matt Thomas

Village Oaks High School
Mission, Vision, & Student Outcomes
2025-2026

**Village Oaks High School
commits to preparing
SMART graduates.**



SELF-ADVOCACY
MANAGEMENT
(TIME, SELF, FUTURE, FINANCES)
ACCOUNTABILITY
RESILIENCY
THINKING CRITICALLY

Mission

Village Oaks High School is dedicated to empowering students with the tools and support they need to excel as self-advocates, responsible managers of their lives and futures, accountable individuals, resilient problem-solvers, and critical thinkers. Through a nurturing and inclusive environment, we strive to provide a personalized learning experience that fosters growth, independence, and lifelong success.

Vision Our vision is to cultivate a community of confident and capable graduates who embody the principles of self-advocacy, effective management, accountability, resilience, and critical thinking. We envision our students leaving prepared to not only meet life's challenges, but to actively shape their futures, contribute to society, and achieve their fullest potential.

Village Oaks High School
Parent/Student Acknowledgement
2025-2026

Teacher Name - Mr. Thomas

Subject- Biology

I have received, read and understand the contents of:

- Course Overview (on Google Classroom)
- Expectations and Classroom Rules (on Google Classroom)
- Grading Policies, Credit Breakdown, and Late Work Policy (on Google Classroom)
- Honor Code (see below)

All of these can be found on Google Classroom. Please ask your student to open their Chromebook and show them to you prior to signing. By signing you are acknowledging you saw this document.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent Contact Information (phone number and/or email): _____

Date: _____

Honor Code

In signing this form I declare that I understand what constitutes PLAGIARISM in this class. Specifically, I agree that all work presented will be of my own and created solely by me, and that the consequences associated with cheating and/or plagiarizing, including the use of AI, will be an automatic "F" (zero) on that assignment, as well as disciplinary action in accordance with Village Oaks High School's policy stated in the Student Handbook. This includes any class assignments, tests, written homework or reports. Doing work for others is considered cheating and will be treated in the same manner as turning in work that is stolen, copied or plagiarized.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____