



Apex High School

1501 Laura Duncan Rd
Apex, NC 27502
919-387-2208

Teacher: Ms. Kerry Piper

Course: Biology

Email: kpiper@wcpss.net

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/piperatthepeak/>

Office Hours: Thurs 2:20-3:20 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Biology focuses on inquiry into **living things and how they survive, grow, and change**. The curriculum is organized into units which will take us from the smallest building blocks of life, through interrelationships of living things with their environment.

CURRICULUM: The Biology curriculum follows the Biology NC Standard Course of Study and has a **state-mandated End-of-Course Exam**. (We'll keep you posted if that changes due to Virtual Academy and COVID-19.) A detailed copy of this curriculum is found on the course website. It should be read carefully by you and your parent/guardian. Expect to be tested on this entire curriculum. Your score counts as your final exam and will be 25% of your final grade as determined by the state.

NC ESSENTIAL STANDARDS:

Learners will be able to:

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| 1.1 Understand the relationship between the structures and functions of cells and their organelles. | 3.3 Understand the application of DNA technology. |
| 1.2 Analyze the cell as a living system. | 3.4 Explain the theory of evolution by natural selection as a mechanism for how species change over time. |
| 2.1 Analyze the interdependence of living organisms within their environments. | 3.5 Analyze how classification systems are developed based upon speciation. |
| 2.2 Understand the impact of human activities on the environment (one generation affects the next). | 4.1 Understand how biological molecules are essential to the survival of living organisms |
| 3.1 Explain how traits are determined by their structure and function of DNA | 4.2 Analyze the relationships between biochemical processes and energy use in the cell. |
| 3.2 Understand how the environment, and/or the interaction of alleles, influences the expression of genetic traits. | |

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. **Textbook:** Biology the Dynamics of Life by Glencoe, Access on Google Classroom
2. Assignment log/Planner/Calendar
3. A 3-Ring binder (1" or more) with loose-leaf paper
4. Pencil and pen (Blue/black for daily work)
5. Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
6. A device to access digital course material and participate during virtual instruction
7. *Optional: Printer with paper and ink if you would like hard copies of digital materials posted the course website*

EXPECTATIONS:

- **Be Prepared.** Come to class prepared to take notes and complete activities. Know and follow directions to stay safe. Be prepared for individual questions/quizzes and class discussion to assess your understanding.
 - Try to identify a quiet place to learn this semester.
 - Bring your binder, charged device, paper, and pen/pencil to class **each day**. While you could take notes digitally, studies show increased retention of information if you write by hand.
 - Submit your work before the due dates in Google Classroom.
 - Look at the course website for the agenda and any announcements.
 - Log into Meet and complete the Warm-Up and begin working silently and independently.

MISSION: Apex High School will provide a relevant and engaging education and will graduate students who are collaborative, creative, effective communicators and critical thinkers.

- **Safety First** – Complete the Safety Contract within the [Student and Parent/Guardian Info Form](#). READ and FOLLOW ALL safety precautions and procedures. Unsafe behaviors will result in the removal of the student from the course.
- **Be Engaged.** Use time efficiently. Be in the **right place** at the **right time** doing the **right thing**. Ask questions and positively contribute to class discussions.
 - **Log into** Google Meet when scheduled with microphone muted. When called on, unmute your mic or type your response into the chat.
 - Use **nonverbal cues** when possible to show you understand or have a question.
- **Be Ambitious.** Do your very best. If you need help, ask before it is too late. Seek out opportunities to deepen your understanding of course content.
 - **Need help? Ask!** If you are struggling, be sure to send an email or schedule a Google Meet. Recovery credit may be available for students not mastering concepts.
 - Make sure to write your answers in your own words, even if you ask a friend or look up an answer online. If two papers are submitted with identical or very similar responses, both papers will receive no credit. (Parents and administrators will be notified of any *cheating/plagiarism* incident.)
- **Be Kind.** Respect others, even if you do not agree with another's point of view. Help out, we're in this together. Keep your workspace clean and protect school property.
 - **Follow all instructions, printed and verbal.** Follow all Wake County, Apex High School, and classroom rules and expectations.
 - Be aware of your **noise level** in your learning space so your classmates and family members are not distracted.
 - Remember that even online, we are still a **community**.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

- You will be evaluated in a number of ways in each unit of this course including warmups, discussions, activities, quizzes, tests, and projects.
 - **Tests** will be worth 40% of an academic student's quarter grade.
 - **Projects** will count as a test grade.
 - **Quizzes** will be worth 20% of an academic student's quarter grade.
 - **Intermediate assessments** will be worth 40% of an academic student's quarter grade.
 - **Class work, labs, warm-ups, mini-projects, articles etc.** are assigned points (5-30 points) based on the assignment.
- Grades are recorded and stored in PowerSchool. While feedback will be available in Google Classroom, please be sure to check PowerSchool often for your official grade.
- At the end of the semester, the **final course grade** will be calculated as follows:

First 9 weeks grade	37.5%
Second 9 weeks grade	37.5%
Common Assessment (Final Exam)	25%
- All assignments and work will be given point values with grade percentages as follows:

<i>A = 90-100%</i>	<i>C = 70-79%</i>	<i>F = less than 60%</i>
<i>B = 80-89%</i>	<i>D = 60-69%</i>	

LATE WORK POLICY:

- Make-up work due to absence will be accepted according to Wake County guidelines. It is the student's responsibility to obtain work missed due to absences. All assignments will be submitted on Google Classroom. If necessary, students may check with me via email or request a Google Meet to discuss work they have missed. If work was assigned before an absence, such as a project or research paper, that assignment is due on the original established date, even if it is on the day the student returns.
- Parents MUST submit a sick note, within 2 days, to the attendance office (jlivshin@wcpss.net) so that student absences may be verified and therefore late work may be accepted.

