



HONORS BIOLOGY - SPRING 2025

Teacher Name: Mary Demkovich

Teacher Email: mademkovich@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Course Description:

PreAP Biology is a first-year high school biology course designed to give students a glimpse into Advanced Placement (AP) Biology while satisfying the Alabama State Science Standards. The curriculum presents biological concepts at a more advanced level than a standard Biology course. PreAP Biology introduces students to the structure of matter, its changes, and the energy involved in supporting life, the different forms of life, and the interconnections of the abiotic/biotic components of ecosystems. This course emphasizes a comprehensive approach to learning, and students will be expected to design and carry out experiments using appropriate methods and resources.

Classroom Management Plan:

Classroom Management Plan

- Verbal reprimand
- Conference with student with parent contact
- Withdrawal of privilege(s) with parent contact
- Other consequences determined to be reasonable and appropriate by the school administration.

Technology Use in the Classroom:

If technology is needed in the classroom, then school issued Chromebooks must be used. Personal electronic devices may only be used at the teachers' discretion. Personal electronics are to be placed in the designated location when students arrive to class. Devices will be returned at the end of class (i.e. leave in the location even when they go to the restroom). Electronic devices may be out before school, during class change, lunch and after school. Parents, guardians, and other family members should call the front office in case of emergency.

Grading Policy:

Test grades will account for 70% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 30% being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100%), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as class work can be made up and graded for excused absences only. The final exam counts for 20% of the final grade.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to complete assignments without prior disclosure and approval is strictly prohibited. Any undisclosed use of AI tools will be considered academic dishonesty and will result in an automatic grade of zero for the assignment in question. All assignments are subject to verbal review.



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Make-up Work Policy:

If you miss class, all assignments will be on Schoology or in the absent bin.

Students are permitted to make up work, tests, and other assignments, activities, etc., when absences are *excused*. All work missed on the day(s) of *excused* absence(s) must be made up **within three school days** after returning to school. Late make-up work will not be accepted or evaluated for credit. ***When you turn in the late work, fill out the Google Form so that I may grade it.***

For extended excused absences when homebound services are not necessary, the teacher may grant additional time, but not to extend beyond two weeks past the return to school. It is the joint responsibility of student and parent to ensure a student makes up work following excused absences. Teachers may alter assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., as necessary to ensure an accurate evaluation of the student's performance after an excused absence.

Texts and Other Required Reading:

Biggs, Alton, et al. *Alabama Inspire Biology*. McGraw-Hill, 2026.



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Materials and Supplies Needed:

3 ring Notebook
Paper
Pencil
Black or blue pens
Highlighter
School-issued Chromebook

Optional: 8 divider tabs

Laptops

Concerning laptop utilization: 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

Accommodations

Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.



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18 - WEEK PLAN*	
WEEK 1	Introduction to Biology- The Nature of Science, Experimental Design, Safety, and Mathematics
WEEK 2	Unit #1 Part 1- Characteristics of Living Things and Biochemistry (The Chemistry of Life and Water)
WEEK 3	Unit #1 Part 2- Characteristics of Living Things and Biochemistry (The Macromolecules)
WEEK 4	Unit #1 Part 2- Characteristics of Living Things and Biochemistry (The Macromolecules and Scientific Characteristics of Life)
WEEK 5	Unit #2- The Working Cell (Cells and Organelles)
WEEK 6	Unit #3- The Working Cell (Membrane Structure and Cell Transport)
WEEK 7	Unit #3- The Working Cell (Membrane Structure and Cell Transport)
WEEK 8	Unit #4- Bioenergetics (Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration)
WEEK 9	Unit #4- Bioenergetics (Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration)
WEEK 10	Spring Break
WEEK 11	Unit #5- Genetics and Inheritance Patterns (Chromosomes and the Cell Cycle)
WEEK 12	Unit #6- Genetics and Inheritance Patterns (DNA and the Central Dogma)
WEEK 13	Unit #6- Genetics and Inheritance Patterns (DNA and the Central Dogma)
WEEK 14	Unit #7- Genetics and Inheritance Patterns (Genetics)
WEEK 15	Unit #7- Genetics and Inheritance Patterns (Genetics)
WEEK 16	Unit #8- Evolution and Speciation
WEEK 17	Unit #9- Ecology and Ecosystems
WEEK 18	Review and Final Exam

* This syllabus serves as a guide for both the teacher and student; however, during the term it may become necessary to make additions, deletions or substitutions. Adequate notice will be provided to students of any changes.



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I feel fortunate to have your child in my class this semester and hope that you will contact me should you have any concerns about the progress of your student. Please sign this page, and have your student bring it back to class. Again, please contact me at school with any concerns. It's going to be a great year!

Thank you,

Mary Demkovich
mademkovich@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the syllabus.

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

Parent/guardian, please provide two ways for me to contact you (email address, phone numbers):

Parent/guardian Email:

Parent/Guardian Phone number:
