

Classroom Expectations 2014-2015

Biology Level 5

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Welcome! I am excited to be spending the 2014-2015 school year with you. This year there will be plenty of new opportunities and chances to see how biology affects our lives each day. Please carefully review the classroom expectations listed below. If you have any questions, please ask. I look forward to getting to know you better during this school year!

Classroom Procedure

Each day, you are expected to bring to class all materials needed, including materials for your method of taking class notes and something to write with. If you are using your iPad, please make sure that it is charged and ready to use.

Students are expected to be on time to class. Failure to arrive on time (and that means before the bell – not at the bell, not one minute after the bell) will affect your class grade.

Unit Organization

At the start of a unit, students will receive a list of the pre-discussion questions, a set of unit objectives and essential vocabulary. As an active learner, you are expected to engage in inquiry and self-directed learning as you work with these materials.

Within a unit, you should expect to encounter classroom discussion, hands-on projects/experiments, group activities, homework assignments, and/or assessments.

Throughout the year, we will use a variety of media, technology and arts to express knowledge and use classroom discussion/debate to effectively share opinions and information. Information for each unit is available online. The classroom agenda will be posted on the blog:

darlingtonbiology.blogspot.com . ***You must be able to access online materials for this class!***

Practice Work

Assignments will be posted online, as well as announced in class. Practice work is designed to extend learning, and is not just “busywork”. Practice work includes all assignments that ask you to practice the material that is being taught in class.

Practice work that is being handed in is to be placed in the appropriate location, at the *beginning* of class on the day it is due. *Late practice work is not accepted.*

Class Notes

Students are expected to take notes to help expand on your pre-discussion questions during class. The lecture is designed around the pre-discussion questions to help further expand your knowledge of a topic. Pre-discussion questions are a chance for you to preview the topics that will be discussed in class.

Powerpoints that we use in class will include diagrams, photos, and other information that help to expand on your knowledge. Powerpoint slides do not contain all of the information from the lecture. You will need to take down notes from the classroom lecture that are essential to your

understanding but are not written on the Powerpoint slides. It is up to you to make sure that you are taking down important information that goes along with the Powerpoint slides. Students who are excused or exempt from class will be able to obtain a copy of the teacher notes.

Labs

Though most lab work will be completed with a partner or in small groups, each student is expected to turn in his or her own copy of the work in his or her own words, unless otherwise told.

Due to the nature of science labs and the materials required, students who are absent the day of a lab will need to make up the lab during the following X-Block.

Late lab reports will lose 10% off the total available points for each day they are late. Late lab reports will not be accepted if they are more than five days late. (Note: Weekends (Saturday/Sunday combined) and weekdays each count as a day – regardless of if class is held then or not.)

Assessments

You will be assessed in a variety of ways this year – each unit will include vocabulary assessments, as well as questions that are both content based and application based.

Students who feel that their score on a multiple-choice assessment does not represent their knowledge will be able to retake the assessment during a pre-announced X-Block period. After the assessments have been graded, you will need to make corrections to the original assessment before the retake date. Your new score will be an average of the original assessment score and your retake score.

The midterm and the final will be multiple-choice questions only.

Class Participation

Class participation includes any Do Now activities, movie response papers/questions, self-evaluations, etc.

At the end of each unit you will be asked to self evaluate your learning for that unit. This will help you identify your strengths and weaknesses before beginning the next unit.

Make-Up Work

Any assessments, labs, practice work, or other assignments that need to be made are the responsibility of the student.

BHS policy states that make-up work is due one day longer than the length of the absent. I expect you to drop work off or place it in my mailbox if you do not have my class scheduled that day. For assessments, you are expected to set a make-up date with me following BHS policy. Students who are on field trips are expected to make plans for all missed work, including labs and assessments, prior to the field trips. Students who are on field trips are expected to turn in any work that is due before leaving on the field trip.

Any work not made up by the designated day will count as a ZERO. This includes assessments that you have set a make-up date for but failed to show up for.

Long-term assignments are expected to be due on the date that is assigned in advance. If you are absent on this day, it is expected that your long-term assignment will be turned immediately upon your return to school, regardless of if you have biology class on that day or not.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated. Unless otherwise stated, all practice work, laboratory reports, assessments, etc. should reflect only your work. All scientists collaborate on their work. They do not, however, **copy** each other's data, results and conclusions. All work should be expressed in your own unique words.

If you are caught cheating, you will receive a zero for the assignment and your parents will be notified.

Extra Credit

On occasion, extra credit will be offered to students. This may take a variety of forms, from an additional project, reading an article or book, or research on a specific topic.

Extra credit will **not** be offered to individual students.

Extra Help/Contact Information

If you need extra help at any point in time throughout the year, please do not hesitate to ask. We will work with you to schedule extra help that works for everyone. This can include before or after school, as well as some X-Blocks.

If you intend to come for extra help during X-Block, it is your responsibility to see us for a pass *PRIOR* to the start of that X-Block. This allows you to check on our availability and allows us to know who is coming for help. We will not give out passes at the start of X-Block.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to e-mail your teacher. We will try to respond to you as quickly as possible.

Evaluation/ Grading

Your quarterly grade will be calculated using the following percent values:

Practice Work (Classwork, Homework, Quick Labs, etc): 20%

Assessments (Tests/Quizzes etc – anything assessing knowledge!): 50%

Labs (Formal write-ups, lab skills and practices): 30%

If you have any concerns about biology class, please contact me – I want to hear from YOU first before I hear from your parents. Most things can be easily fixed!

We do our best to keep Aspen as up-to-date as possible. Part of your responsibility is to be vigilant in checking your grades online. Find out how to log into Aspen – we will not give grade updates!

Aspen Codes are as follows: A – Absent, E – Exempt, NTI – Not Turned In, and WLC – With Learning Center. With the exception of E for Exempt, all other grades are factored in as zero until material is turned in. Please note, if Aspen says “No Score” for an assignment that means that the assignment has not been corrected yet.