

Per Course



IB Biology HL Year 1
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Course Description

As with all courses at Decatur High School, this class seeks to develop inquirers, thinkers, communicators, and risk-takers who are knowledgeable, principled, reflective, open-minded, and balanced. Throughout the course, all students will be given opportunities to develop in these areas through rigorous study and frequent opportunities for communication and collaboration.

All science courses at Decatur High School aspire to develop scientifically informed, caring, and responsible individuals who can think critically and make informed choices about themselves, the environment, and society. In this first year of IB Biology HL (a two-year course), students will experience the richness and excitement of understanding and exploring the natural world around them. Throughout the year, students will explore the history and chemistry of life, how cells and organisms function, how traits are passed down through generations, evolution by means of natural selection, and how organisms interact with one another and their environments. We hope that this sequence is engaging, challenging, and accessible for all students.

Course Curriculum Map

 Science Curriculum Maps - DHS

Texts, Resources, Instructional Technology and Applications

The primary text/resource that students will use this year is Kognity, a digital curriculum-aligned teaching and learning platform with interactive content, analytics, and assessment support. Students will log into Kognity using their school email and will have access to the digital textbook as well as other Kognity resources, such as sample questions. Students will also receive guided notes and digital copies of Google Slides used for in-class lectures for additional study material.

Methodology

We will use multiple strategies in an attempt to reach and engage all students. Instructional approaches include direct instruction as well as more hands-on, student-centered methods, including lab work, group investigations, class discussions, and tech-based explorations. Biology is an experimental science, and our goal is to hone students' experimental and collaborative skills in the hopes that they can engage in as much authentic scientific practice as possible.

As an IB Biology team, we will offer tutorial times before and after school in order to give students additional opportunities to get extra help. The specific tutorial schedule will be posted in Google Classroom when it is finalized.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING MORNING TUTORIAL, PLEASE MAKE A PASS IN THE HALL PASS SYSTEM BEFORE 4PM THE DAY BEFORE - THIS WILL ALLOW YOUR TEACHER TO APPROVE THE PASS.

Classroom Policies and Expectations

In this class, we work to "Be a Part of the P.A.C.K."

- Come to class on time, prepared, and ready to work with all appropriate materials – your school Chromebook and charger, your Biology class binder/notebook, paper, a writing utensil, and any needed assignments.
- Have a positive attitude and a willingness to participate.
- Exhibit mature, respectful, and cooperative behavior at all times.
- Follow all class and school rules and procedures.

As a science course, we strive to maintain a safe and orderly environment during labs. Students are expected to follow all directions, both written and verbal, at all times during labs. Procedures that will be followed in all labs include:

- Students must wear safety goggles at all times
- No food or drink may be consumed while conducting a lab
- Students will move around the lab room in a calm and controlled manner
- Students will alert the teacher calmly but immediately in the event of an accident or emergency

A lab safety agreement will be shared early in the year for students and parents/guardians to read and sign.

Methods of Assessment

Standards-Based Tasks (20% of the course average)

Standards-Based Tasks (SBTs) in IB Biology may include, but are not limited to:

- Quizzes
- Lab Assessments
- Applied Data Analysis Assessments
- Video and/or Reading Quizzes

Summative Assessment Plan (80% of the course average)

This table is a general summative assessment plan that shows the number of anticipated summative assessments. Summative Assessment Dates will be posted in Infinite Campus and Google Classroom at least one week before due or administered in class.

Grade-Reporting Window (S1/S2)	Summative Assessments	Retake Eligible?
S1	Molecular Biology + Biochemistry	Yes
S1	Cellular Structure +Function	Yes
S1	Evolution + Classification	Yes
S1	Molecular Genetics + Gene Expression	No
S2	Cell Energy	Yes
S2	Ecology	Yes
S2	Cell Division + Genetics	Yes
S2	Spring Cumulative Exam	No

Final Assessment/EOC

This course WILL have an EOC near the end of Semester 2, which will count as 10% of the S2 course grade.

Guidelines for Retakes

- To be eligible for a retake on a Unit Summative, students must complete the relevant study guide AND attend AT LEAST one tutoring session.
- In Year 1 of IB Biology HL, one retake opportunity will be offered for each unit test summative. Retakes will occur approximately every 9 weeks throughout the year, NOT directly following the assessment.
 - Rather than scheduling individual retakes after each test, retake opportunities will be offered near the end of each nine-week grading period.

- For example:
 - 1st Nine Weeks: Students may retake the Unit 1 and/or Unit 2 summative assessments.
 - 2nd Nine Weeks: Students may retake the Unit 3 and/or Unit 4 summative assessments.
 - 3rd and 4th Nine Weeks: This pattern will continue, with students eligible to retake any summative assessment administered during that grading period.
- Students will be informed when reteaching will take place (ex: WIN) and when retakes are available.
- Retakes will be a different assessment from the original, which can mean a different format, and may assess only the standards on which proficiency was not met.
- There will be a Spring Semester Cumulative Summative Assessment that will be entered into the gradebook as a summative, however, there will be NO retake offered for this assessment
- SBTs will not be eligible for retakes.

Confirmation Receipt

ACTION ITEM

Students, after reviewing the syllabus with your parent/guardian, please complete the syllabus sign off form on google classroom - **Due Sunday, August 23rd @ 11:59pm**

SYLLABUS SIGN OFF QUESTION: What is your favorite song or album?

This syllabus is subject to changes or updates at the teacher's discretion or as a result of changes in the learning environment or setting.

School-wide



Equity Statement

In City Schools of Decatur, we are committed to aligning educational practices, policies, and resources to ensure that all students have access to and feel welcome to participate in high-quality learning experiences, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender, ability, religion, sexual orientation, linguistic diversity, or other cultural characteristics.

CSD will have achieved educational equity when ALL students have the resources, opportunities, and rigorous and relevant learning needed to enable their educational success.

We believe that educational equity requires: high expectations for all students, a culture that honors all students and staff regardless of cultural or racial background, a culture that is reflective and inclusive of all students and staff regardless of cultural or racial background, the systematic use of data to determine and establish an equitable allocation of resources, the intentional development and implementation of district policies and practices with a focus on amplifying equity, and working together to eliminate predictable patterns of academic achievement based on race, socioeconomic status, and gender.

Fees for AP & IB Courses

Families are being asked to pay for their student's AP & IB exams at \$126.50 per IB exam and \$99 per AP exam. Fees for your student's AP & IB exams will be added to the Infinite Campus parent portal in August and are due no later than October 23, 2026. Students will be assessed a late fee for payments submitted after November 1, 2026. The late fee is \$40 per test for AP & IB. We strongly encourage you to pay these fees online through the parent portal, but if you need to pay by check, please see Ms. Karina Green at DHS. LATE AP & IB EXAM REGISTRATIONS/PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER DECEMBER 15, 2026. CSD strongly desires that the fees not dissuade any student who wants to pursue AP & IB coursework and assessment and opportunities for scholarships for families demonstrating financial need will be available. Please complete the [linked form](#) for assistance with AP/IB exam fees.

All AP students must sign up for the AP Classroom whether they are taking the test or not. Students must self-register for their exams, the coordinator or course teacher cannot register students for exams. Students will need to contact their individual teachers for their join code(s), see [Joining Your AP Class Section \(Student\)](#). Students must register themselves. For technical support for students: [AP College Board Support for Students](#). DHS will administer all AP exams digitally or in hybrid form except AP Music Theory (currently only offered via paper pen/pencil).

Methods of Assessment

At Decatur High School, we use assessment to help students and teachers improve student learning and to communicate student progress. Assessments are recorded in the Infinite Campus gradebook. DHS uses two kinds of assessments, summative assessments and standards-based tasks. Summative assessments are given when students have had opportunities to learn, practice, and master skills and content over a unit or other significant length of time. Standards-based tasks are smaller assessments that may be given after a short period of instruction and focus on a smaller amount of content than a typical summative assessment.

- Standards-Based Tasks (20% of the course average)
- Summative Assessment Plan (80% of the course average)

Each course syllabus will provide a general summative assessment plan that shows the number of anticipated summative assessments. Summative Assessments will be posted in Google Classroom and Infinite Campus at least 1 week before they are DUE or administered in class

Final Assessment/EOC

In addition to these kinds of assessments, some courses will have an End of Course OR Final Assessment. This assessment is worth 10% of the overall course grade for S2 only.

DHS Grade Calculation

The running average in this course will be the weighted average of all graded assessments. Because summative assessments are more challenging and comprehensive than standards-based instructional tasks, they are worth 80% of the grade, and standards-based tasks are worth 20% of the grade.

- At the end of S1, the Final Average is based on summative assessments and standards-based tasks only.
- At the end of S2, the S2 End of Year Final average is 90% of a student's grade, and the EOC/Final Assessment is 10% of the grade.

All assessments will be scored on a scale between 50 and 100, and the final grade will be reported out between 50 and 100, as well.

100-Point Range	100 - 90	89 - 80	79 - 70	69 - 50
Letter Grade and Description	A Distinguished mastery of state standards	B Proficient mastery of state standards	C Developing mastery of state standards	F No evidence of mastery of state standards

Make-up Work Policy & Guidelines for Retakes

Make-up Work for in-class assessments:

Students have no more than four weeks to complete missed summative assessments, but should be expected to make up a missed summative immediately if they only missed the day of the summative. Timelines for making up missed summatives will be communicated before the date of the in-class assessment. When assessments are not completed according to the established timeline, students will receive a score of 50 with a comment saying "Not Turned In." If the makeup timeline has not yet expired at the end of a marking period, the student will receive an INC for that grading period.

Guidelines for Retakes

- If an assessment is eligible for a retake, all students who complete the requirements are eligible for a retake. Retake scores are not capped. Both scores will appear in the gradebook, but the lower score will be marked as not included in the grade.

- Students will receive at least one, but not more than two retake opportunities *for in-class summative assessments like tests and graded labs*. Students will be informed when reteaching will take place and when retakes are available. Retakes will be a different assessment from the original, which can mean a different format, and may assess only the standards on which proficiency was not met. Retake scores will be posted in the gradebook as a separate assessment. The previous/original score will remain in the records, but will not be included in the grade calculation.

Academic Honesty

All students and teachers are expected to abide by the Decatur High School Academic Integrity Policy below. When we engage in scholarly activities, we strive to demonstrate our understandings and skills, to generate new ideas and explanations, and to build on the work of others. To act honorably, we pledge to be honest with our fellow students and our teachers about the sources of the ideas and explanations in the work we submit. We pledge to credit sources properly, give or receive assistance only when appropriate, and, above all, complete all work with integrity in accordance with the spirit and intent of the assignment. We recognize that ignorance is no defense for dishonest behavior. We pledge to familiarize ourselves with the Decatur High School Academic Integrity Policy and to inquire about the policy when we are uncertain. We believe that when we violate the Decatur High School Academic Integrity Policy, we should be held accountable to the penalties established therein.

As the teacher of this course, I will clearly communicate how a student might unintentionally violate the Academic Integrity Policy on summative assessments. The following statement will appear on every summative assessment given to students.

“On my honor, I will not cheat or plagiarize this work. I will not allow others to use my work to cheat or plagiarize.”

I will only accept summative assessments with signed honor statements.

Please see the full [DHS Academic Integrity Policy rev July 2026](#) for more information.

IBDP/CP Only

The International Baccalaureate will only accept for submission internally assessed work that can be authenticated. This means that teachers may not submit work for evaluation in cases where rough drafts were not submitted before the internal deadline (applies to all internal assessments) and students did not attend required reflection sessions with their advisors (applies to Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge Essay & Exhibition, Reflective Project, and Personal Project).