

Biology Course Syllabus

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Room # 6-118

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- Students explore the characteristics, classification, and behaviors of living organisms, as well as how they interact with each other and their environment.
- The course also delves into the structure and function of cells, the mechanisms of heredity, and the processes of evolution and natural selection.

BIOLOGY UNITS

- Lab Safety
- Biology Terminology
- Nature of Science
- Macromolecules and Properties of Water
- Ecology
- Cells
- Cellular Energy
- Mendelian Genetics
- Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology
- Evolution
- Classification and Plants
- Body Systems

McGraw Hill is the textbook that we will be using. Each student will have access to the book online as well as the ability to check out a hard back book from the library.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

- **Practice: 30% of overall grade**
 - **One practice grade per week** worth a total of **40 points**
 - This weekly practice grade may be one assignment or multiple assignments at teacher discretion to equal the 40 practice points per week

- Total of 9 practice grades per quarter
- Practice assignments may include:
 - Labs*
 - Videos/EdPuzzles
 - Vocabulary
 - Data Analysis
 - Practice and Modeling Activities
- Non-graded in class practice
 - Any classwork that is not part of the weekly practice grade will fall under a spot check policy:
 - Notes, vocabulary assignments, practice assignments, etc
 - Teacher will periodically walk the class and make note of students not completing required non-graded assignments
 - Parent contact will be made for those students with incomplete items
- **Performance (Mastery): 70% of overall grade**
 - **One mastery grade per week worth 40-80 points**
 - Total of 9 mastery grades per quarter
 - Mastery assignments may include:
 - Labs*
 - Projects
 - Quizzes
 - Tests

** Note on Labs: these could fall in either category depending on the topic, students will always know before doing the work!*

Grading Scale for All Work: A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

Although we will review in class, you are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures, rules, and lab safety protocols. When you make a CHOICE that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented in accordance with the Behavior Management Plan.

Please refer to the following documents

- VHS Student Handbook
- 26-27 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

PROCEDURES & MATERIALS

Daily Required Materials:

- Provided note packet
- Spiral Notebook
- Lanyard and appropriate outfit that meets VCS Uniform Policy requirements
- Chromebook, charged
- Earbuds or headphones
- Pencils, Pens, Highlighters
- 3 prong folder

Google Classroom/Email:

- Students will utilize Google Classroom daily. It is advised that you check Classwork, Stream, and To-Do List. It is suggested that students check school email and skyward gradebook daily as well.

Bell Ringer/Dismissal:

- Put cellphones in locker as you enter the classroom
- Get materials ready and be in seat, working when bell rings
- Read and follow all instructions posted on the classroom whiteboard and/or website (Google Classroom Stream)
- Clean up and prepare to leave when the teacher instructs you to do so
- Class is over when you are dismissed by the teacher, not when the bell rings
- Get cellphone from locker upon exiting the classroom

Labs/Activities:

- Lab Safety Contract will be signed at the beginning of the school year and students are expected to follow all parts of that contract during labs/activities.

Make-up Work & Late Work

Please check the **Absent Folder** for practice grade weekly assignments when you return. Also, please check the **Google Classroom** "Stream" and check the "Classwork" page for missed work shown for the current topic.

- Weekly practice assignments are generally due every **Friday**.
 - Late work will be accepted up to 1 week late (the Friday following the original due date) for 60% of the actually grade (based on accuracy, not completion)
- If a student is absent for a class activity that is the weekly graded activity and it can not be replicated, they will be given an alternate assignment. It will be due the following day in class.
- All work due on the computer is still due on the due date, even if absent. Some assignments are given multiple days to complete. Unexcused absences may result in zero grade if not submitted upon return to school.

- Any work that was on paper and due to be turned in while a student is absent, will be due the day the student returns. Absent students will be allowed to complete paperwork digitally if provided by the teacher on Google Classroom. Otherwise, the paper copy will be available upon return to school.
- If a student misses a test, due to an absence, the student must be prepared to take the test on the day that they return to school. The test will be a different no-multiple choice test.

Late Work:

- Late work will be accepted up to 1 week late (the Friday following the original due date) for 60% of the actual grade (based on accuracy, not completion)
- Assignments that are turned in after the 1 week late deadline will not receive credit.
- ALL WORK THAT IS GIVEN AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE WILL BE DUE ON THE ASSIGNED DUE DATE EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT. NO LATE CREDIT! (These assignments are always assigned with plenty of time to be completed in class or at home).

IMPORTANT DATES

Please check your Absent Work Folder (in class)/ google classroom/ ParentSquare / teacher connection page on a regular basis for up to date assignments, classwork, homework, tests, and quizzes. Please make sure to check the calendar for the correct class period.

ASSISTANCE & COMMUNICATION

Email is the quickest way to reach me, and a phone call may be arranged if needed. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If you need help with class content, I am available Tuesdays after school or by appointment. Additionally, BASE offers daily tutoring and students have access to at home independent tutoring through Varsity Tutors.