Fall 2016 Biology Syllabus

Teacher: Janine Kube
Room: G211
School Phone: (336) 476-1500 Extension: 7211
Email: jkube@randolph.k12.nc.us
Planning: 1st Block

Biology (Course Number: 33202X0)
Biology is the study of all life on Earth. Within this course, our study of biology will revolve around several interlocking big ideas: interactions between living things and their environment; biological molecules; cell structure; cell processes to maintain a stable environment, obtain energy, and to reproduce; the passing on of beneficial traits to future generations; changes in populations over time; as well as, the classification of and diversity of living things.

Prerequisite
None

Learning Goals and Objectives
The learning goals and objectives for this course are based on the NC Essential Standards for Biology which can be found on the attached sheet and through the link on the class webpage.

Pacing
- Ecology – 4 Weeks
- Molecular Biology – 1.5 Weeks
- Cells – 2 Weeks
- Cell Energy – 1 Week
- Molecular Genetics – 2 Weeks
- Heredity – 2.5 Weeks
- Biotechnology – 1 Week
- Evolution, Classification, & Diversity – 2 Weeks

Methods of Learning
This course will combine direct instruction via Power Points with daily hands-on reinforcement activities. Students are expected to take notes during the Power Point presentations. Some activities will require students to work with another student or a small group of students.

Textbook
Miller & Levine Biology. Copyright © 2014 by Pearson Education Inc.

Science Fee
As with all science classes, there is a $5.00 science fee, per county policy

Required Materials
- Three ring binder and something to write with.
- Suggested but not required: colored markers and colored pencils.

Provided Materials
- Safety Goggles

Class Webpage
The class webpage is located on Teacherweb.com. You can reach the class webpage by clicking on the link located on my Wheatmore’s teacher webpage, then click on the tab for Biology.

All materials such as: Power Points, note guides, and activities can be found on the class webpage for Biology. You can also find the pacing guide, online textbook, related videos, and related websites on the class webpage.
Assessments
Besides daily labs and activities; there will be short, daily, warm-up reviews based upon the prior day’s topic. There will also frequent quizzes and seven common unit tests. Exact dates for these unit tests will be announced during class, several days prior to the day of the test. Students will receive a study guide and will be able to participate in a review session prior to each unit test.

Biology End of Course Exam (EOC)
At the end of the course, there will be a required state-made, multiple choice, final exam that will count 25% of the final course grade. The results of the EOC will be placed in your school file and included on your transcripts. Students must score a level III in order to be considered proficient.

Grading Procedures
Grading of assignments will be based upon correctness and not just upon completion. Students can keep up with their class grade via Power School, which will be updated by the end of Tuesday, each week. Each Wednesday, students will receive an unofficial progress report, so that they can examine their progress and track their strengths and weaknesses.

Category Weights
Various categories of assessments are weighted differently to reflect their levels of difficulty and to ensure students are held accountable for not only completing assigned work but also for actually learning the required concepts, as the class progresses. Category weights are as follows:

- Tests ...................................................... 40%
- Quizzes ................................................. 25%
- Labs .................................................... 25%
- Class Assignments and Homework .......... 10%

Grading Scale
- 90 – 100 ................................................. A
- 80 – 89 .................................................. B
- 70 – 79 ................................................. C
- 60 – 69 ................................................. D
- 0 – 59 ................................................... F

Homework Policy
Homework is due at the very beginning of class.

Missing Work Policy
Students that do not turn in assignments will be given a zero grade. However, students may turn in late work for a reduced grade. If students cannot find their copy of an assignment, they may go to the class webpage and print out another copy of the assignment.

After-School Tutoring
Tutoring will be available, after school, on Wednesday afternoons. If you desire extra help, please speak with me to set up a separate tutoring session during a mutually agreeable time.

Absence Policy
As per school policy, only 5 absences are allowed, whether they are excused or non-excused. All work missed, due to an absence, must be made up within 10 days, per county policy. However, it is strongly recommended that students make up the work as soon as possible so they can get back on track more quickly.

Tardy Policy
As per school policy, the classroom door will be locked as soon as the bell finishes ringing. Students will then need an admittance slip from guidance before they can enter the classroom.

**Lab Safety Policy**
While science labs can be a fun way to learn, they can also present some dangers when students view and treat lab time as a play time. We will be working with some materials that can cause harm if not handled properly. Therefore, when completing labs, safety comes first.

All students and their parent's/guardians must sign a Lab Safety Contract before any student can take part in a lab. Students are expected to follow all specified safety procedures and lab rules. Students caught "playing around" will result in students being removed from the lab setting and parent notification.

**Restroom Policy**
No restroom passes will be allowed during the first and last 10 minutes of class. Students are expected to use the restroom before or after class. However, in the case of emergencies, students may ask permission to use the restroom. Students will need to hand in their cells phones before going to the restroom.

**Cell Phone Policy**
Per school policy, cell phones are not to be seen or heard during class, unless a particular lesson utilizes cells phones as part of the instruction method. Students may not charge their phones during class.

**Class Rules**
1. Be respectful. If you want to be treated with respect, then begin by treating the teacher and other students in the class with respect. Limit class distractions. Treat the classroom materials with respect. Clean up after yourself and return all materials to their proper place. Remain quiet during school announcements.
2. Be responsible. Do your own work and take responsibility for the decisions you make.
3. Be Ready. Before each class, make sure you have your science notebook and something to write with. If you do not have something to write with, ask the teacher for a pencil before the bell rings.

**Teacher Contact**
Students may email me at any time during the semester. Students may also stop by right before and right after school. On Tuesday mornings, students can find me in the student parking lot before school. It is my greatest desire to do whatever I can to help you succeed in this class. Please feel free to email or drop by with any concerns you may have.