**MARINE BIOLOGY 2015-2016**

**Teacher: Barbara O’Neill baoneill@gcsd.k12.sc.us**

**Course Title and Description: Marine Biology**

The purpose of this course is to allow students to discover Ocean Literacy and understand the ocean’s influence on you-and your influence on this ecosystem. This course is designed to explain, discuss, and investigate how life around us works, behaves, and interacts.

**Class Expectations:** I am privileged to be a member of the faculty of Waccamaw High School. I received my B.S. Degree in Health Education from Western Connecticut State University and my Master of Science in Teaching from Central Connecticut State University. This is my sixth year of teaching at Waccamaw High and my 22nd year teaching in the public school system.

Marine Biology is a challenging course that demands your child take an attitude of commitment and responsibility. Students **MUST** keep up with assignments! I will do my best to work with your child and with you for success in the classroom. Together we will strive to prepare your child for his or her future in education and in life.

To foster a positive learning environment, there are three basic classroom rules that I expect students to follow:

1. Treat everyone with courtesy and respect.
2. Arrive to class on time with required materials.
3. Listen to and follow instructions the first time they are given.

Each class will be creating a SOCIAL CONTRACT so we will know how to behave in class.

CONSEQUENCES

1. VERBAL WARNING 1. POSITIVE AFFIRMATION
2. PARENT CONTACT 2. POSITIVE PHONE CALL HOME
3. OFFICE REFERRAL 3. PREFERRED ACTIVITY (WHEN DESIGNATED)

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be on time with all materials.
2. Raise hand and wait to be called on. **No blurting out**.
3. Complete warm up activity.
4. Know conversation level and adhere to it.
5. Follow directions the first time. Ask 3 BEFORE you ask me!
6. Use appropriate language.
7. NO BULLYING.
8. Follow all school rules.
9. Keep body parts to yourself!

**Materials:** Students are required to have: **a 3 ring binder; loose leaf paper; ink pens (black or blue ink ONLY); pencils; *inexpensive*  calculator, sheet protectors.**

**Grading:** Grades will be calculated on a scale of 100. Homework/class work and labs/quizzes are kept in the student’s binder.

Common Grading Policy: Homework/Classwork 25%, Quizzes 15%, Tests 30%, Labs, Major Assignments & Projects 30%.

**SECOND CHANCE POLICY: Your child has an opportunity to make up a MAJOR ASSIGNMENT if grade is LOWER THAN an 80. The points added to their grade MAY NOT EXCEED AN 89.**

**Text:** Your child may or may not be issued a textbook. If they do receive a text then they are for completely responsible for keeping them and returning them at end of year.

**Lab Safety:** Because science demands hands-on experiences to learn, it is imperative for safety in the lab to be a priority. Students will be taught lab safety procedures and will be held responsible for their behavior in lab situations. In order for students to participate in lab experiences, both a parent/guardian and the student must sign and return a lab safety contract. Closed-toed shoes are required for lab participation. I suggest students keep a pair of lab shoes in their locker to avoid lab make-up or zeros.

**Course Outline:** The following topics will be covered in this class.

1. Plate Tectonics and Bathymetry.
2. Marine Chemistry
3. Currents; Waves; Tides
4. Plankton
5. Invertebrates
6. Bony Fish
7. Sharks
8. Marine Reptiles and Mammals
9. Salt Marsh Ecosystem

All Marine Biology students will take a Final Exam in May based on the standards taught throughout the year. The scores are worth 20% of their FINAL GRADE. The above course outline lets you know the topics of study. Power point presentations will be available on my web site.

**Homework:** I check written homework for completion as assigned, and students are required to keep it in their binders to use to study for tests. Homework may be written or consist of reviewing material covered in class and reading ahead. Vocabulary is an integral part of biology. Students should spend at least 20 minutes each day on homework.

**Absences and Extra Assistance:** Please make every effort to encourage your child to be present at school every day.  **All work must be made up, whether the absence is excused or unexcused**. Students are expected to make up missed work within 3 days. I am available for make-up work or for extra assistance on **Monday afternoons** from 3:15-4:00pm. Students are responsible for transportation.

**Feedback:** I give students feedback on graded work a few days after tests. I will contact parents as needed regarding grades, attendance, and behavior. Please indicate on the parent form the best way for me to contact you. You may contact me by calling the school at 237-9899 ext. 2133. My email is baoneill@gcsd.k12.sc.us.

**WHS Guidelines to Success**

**Be respectful.**

**Be on time. Be on task**

**Stay in authorized areas.**

**Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN:**

I verify that I have read the extended day policy and the course syllabus in its entirety and understand all the expectations that have been set for my student.

 Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT:**

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 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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