DESCRIPTION

Because active involvement is an integral part of Biology I, we use a "hands-on" and a "minds-on" approach to learning. Cooperative learning skills will be practiced. Our textbook is titled Biology: The Dynamics of Life.

PHILOSOPHY

My personal beliefs about teaching are difficult to put into writing, yet I feel compelled to communicate some of my basic feelings. First and foremost, I believe school should be a safe and fun place to learn. You should feel comfortable with me and others in the classroom; therefore, we will need to develop mutual respect. We can develop this respect by practicing these three words: courtesy, consideration, and cooperation. Secondly, I believe we all have differences that make us unique. (How could I teach genetics without believing that concept?) We all have different ways of learning and interpreting the same thing. It is the sharing of this uniqueness that makes our lives richer. Cooperative learning techniques allow us to work, learn, and experience our individuality; yet at the same time bring us together into one unit with common goals.

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will learn techniques to improve their capability to learn.
2. Students will recognize the need for organization in science and life.
3. Students will master the care & use of equipment used in Biology I.
4. Students will be aware of the diversity of biology.

STUDENT EXPECTATION

1. Students will earn respect.
2. Entrance to class should be orderly and quiet.
3. Students are expected to sit in their assigned seats until the bell rings. No loitering at the door before class or near the door at the end of the period.
4. Students will spend the first five minutes of the class with a reading assignment. Students cannot put their heads down on the lab tables.
5. All lateness must be accompanied by a pass.
6. Lavatory passes are restricted to emergencies only.
7. All students should be prepared on a daily basis with their notebook, writing instrument, and book.
8. Any equipment and specimens should remain untouched until students are directed to use that material.
9. If a test or any assignment is due on the day you are absent, be prepared the next day.
10. Any student needing extra help is encouraged to schedule a meeting with me.
**GRADING**

DIFFERENT FORMS OF ASSESSING A STUDENT PROGRESS MAY INCLUDE:

- HOMEWORK-
- QUIZZES OR TESTS -
- LABORATORY EXERCISES -
- ORAL OR WRITTEN REPORTS-
- CLASSROOM AND GROUP PARTICIPATION -
- READING APPRENTICSHIP-
- WRITTEN OR TAPED INTERVIEWS-
- SELF REFLECTIONS-
- INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP CONFERENCES-
- FINAL EXAM -

All grades are recorded as points. The final grade for any of the three marking periods is the total of all student points earned divided by the total number possible. All students are required to take a final exam which will be worth 10% of the yearly average.

**LABORATORY INFORMATION**

Using the laboratory equipment is a wonderful privilege. The use of microscopes, dissecting scopes, and other materials provide a "hands-on" approach to the study of life. Along with the privilege of participating in the laboratory exercises, the following responsibilities are listed for each student:

1. Remember that safety comes first.
2. Remain in your assigned area unless directed otherwise.
3. Handle materials only after instructed.
4. Communicate with others in a soft quiet voice.
5. Listen to and follow directions.
6. Read, think, and observe.
7. Keep your station clean & organized. This includes the sink area.
8. Return all materials to their original location unless directed otherwise.
PARENT’S MESSAGE

After reading these course requirements, please sign below and return. Because of valuable equipment and materials used in this course, I urge you to remind your child to behave in a mature and responsible manner. I suggest you ask them daily what they have learned. Any time you wish to discuss your child’s progress, please call the school to arrange for a meeting. You are welcome to contact me at the high school at 767-9832. My voice mail is #1217. My email is cLeslie@nlsd.org. I will also be sending home some additional letters of information as the year progresses. We need to work together to ensure the best for our students. Please keep this section and return the portion below.

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BIOLOGY 1A  Mrs. Leslie


Parent’s name  (print)


Parent’s signature


Parent’s E-MAIL


Parent’s phone numbers during the day / evening


Student’s name  (print)


Student’s signature


COMMENTS


