4th period Honors Biology (v) Syllabus 2020-2021

Teacher Information:

Dr. K. Taylor ~Room 205 (Google Meet)
Phone: 314-282-5637 (Google voice)
Email: ktaylor1@hazelwoodschools.org
Conference hours by appointment.

Required Text: *Biology*. Miller, K., & Levine, J. Pearson. 2010

Class Web Resources: Stemscopes, Google Classroom, Dr Taylor’s website (coming soon!).

Class Meeting Time: (3rd) 11:01am- 12:40pm (4th and 8th)12:45 pm- 2:15pm

Course Description:
This course focuses on three elements: content knowledge, inquiry based projects, and social learning. Multimedia and visualization tools are used to address all learning styles. This course is intended to instill deeper understanding of topics that students find most fascinating and challenging, such as ecology, genetics, evolution, and cell biology. Through the readings, videos, discussions, assignments, and other interactive experiences, learners will have multiple opportunities to develop their content knowledge in the various concepts of biology. Learners will experience a rich multimedia, inquiry-based learning environment. The expectation is that students will study the Missouri State Standards for Biology in greater depth, at a slightly more rapid pace, and with more opportunity for inquiry-based labs and activities than in the general Biology sections. The biology labs that students will perform during the year as part of this course will require high level critical thinking skills, active problem solving, cooperative work, and independent learning. Honors Biology will prepare students for future honors and Advanced Placement (AP) science classes. The End of Course exam is a course requirement and is worth 15% of the second semester grade.

We will be covering the following content units of study:

* Cellular Reproduction and Differentiation
* Homeostasis
* Energy in Organisms
* Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
* Biodiversity and Environmental Change
* Evidence of Common Ancestry/Natural election
* Adaptations
* Biodiversity and Humans
* Inheritance and Variation

Virtual Classroom expectations:

* Come prepared for class with supplies listed below
* Log into Google Meet at least 2 minutes before class begins.
* Be mindful of proper virtual meeting etiquette. Get dressed, eat your meal, get your learning space ready
 and take care of any necessary grooming needs prior to logging into class.
* Enter the classroom muted and begin working on the Writing prompt.
* Remain muted unless you have a question or have been instructed to unmute.
* Be respectful and pay attention. (Minimize distractions such as TV, radio, texting, etc.)
* Once class has begun, raise your hand to respond/ask questions or unmute and ask your question.
* Fully participate in class by taking notes, completing practice problems, answering questions, presenting
 your work, participating in groups work, completing labs, and working independently.
* All homework reading assignments and summaries should be prepared and completed prior to class.
* No sleeping, head down, or absent from your computer. If I cannot see you or hear you, you will be
 marked tardy/truant or absent.
* Use time wisely and work on coursework from beginning of class until Dr. Taylor dismisses.
* Refrain from using the chat for non-coursework related communication.

Materials needed:

**Scrap paper Chromebook Pencil and pen**

**Classroom rules:**

* Be respectful to yourself, the classroom, fellow students, and to instructors, at all times.
* Be prepared. Enter Google Meet muted and have pens/pencils and paper for every class.
* Be on time. Enter the Google Meet ready to learn from “bell to bell”.

Assignments/Homework:

Students are required to complete the Writing prompt activity every day, participate in class discussions, group work, cooperative activities, labs, research, and homework assignments. Virtual notebooks will be collected with the aforementioned artifacts at the end of each unit and periodically checked throughout the unit period. ***It is your responsibility to review the agenda and complete any make up work. Late work will be accepted with a loss of 10% of the total point value per day up to 5 days. After the fifth day an alternative assignment may be assigned to recover some of the missed points.***

Assignments and homework may include but not limited to:

* Reading the current unit content and
* Answering textbook questions
* Reviewing lecture notes
* Readings and case studies
* Lab write ups
* Essays
* Creating posters, presentations, surveys
* Conducting research
* Journal assignments
* Journal and newspaper summaries

Grading Procedures:

Required Work

Assessments (Labs reports, essays, chapter/Unit Exams and Quizzes, Benchmark and EOC) 70%

Classwork (Projects, class/group work and lab activities, discussion, note-taking, writing prompt) 30%

TOTAL 100%

Grade Scale:

90% - 100% A Excellent Performance

80% - 89% B Good Performance

70% - 79% C Average Performance

60% - 69% D Unsatisfactory Performance

0% - 59% F Not mastering Content

Extra Credit:

* There will be opportunity for other extra credit assignments as the semester progresses in the way of
 reports, video presentations, attending lectures, etc.
* Extra credit is not graded until all required work is completed.

Academic Dishonesty:

If a student is caught cheating on an assignment or exam, the student will receive a zero for that work. Student will receive a zero if he/she is caught with a cell phone during an assessment.

Discipline Policy:

* First offense: verbal warning
* Second offense: call to parents
* Third offense: call to parents and conference with the grade level principal.
* Forth offense: referral

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with me personally, by phone, or by email. I am happy to speak with parents and students. However, in order to preserve instructional time, I ask that conferences be held during conference time.

**Note: The syllabus is subject to change when we return to modified or face to face instruction at the discretion of the Instructor to include classroom expectations and procedures. A new syllabus and signature page will be sent out at that time.**