

Honors Biology

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Essential Standards (What We Will Learn):

BIO.1: Interactions with Organisms and the Environment



Ecosystems stay balanced by recycling matter and energy. They can recover from small changes but may be damaged by big ones—especially from human impact.

BIO.2: Structure and Function of Life



All living things are made of cells. Cells have parts that do jobs to keep organisms alive and balanced. In larger organisms, cells form tissues and organs that work together.

BIO.3: Genetic Patterns



Traits are passed from parents to offspring through DNA. Genes control traits, but they can be influenced by changes in DNA and the environment. New genetic research offers benefits but also raises ethical questions.

BIO.4: Evolutionary Change

All life is connected through evolution. Traits that help organisms survive get passed on. Over time, this leads to new species or extinctions, depending on the environment.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn.
2. Electronics will not be allowed in the classroom unless given permission for educational purposes only.
3. Be responsible for your own learning.
4. Respect the teacher, classroom, and other students.

*Students who choose to abuse and/or destroy lab or classroom materials/supplies will have to pay to have the item replaced.

If a student violates classroom respect expectations, the following progressive steps will apply:

1st offense: Student will be reminded of the rule and expectation.

2nd offense: Student will be reminded of the rule, and the teacher will make a T-1 entry in PowerSchool.

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3rd offense: Student will be reminded of the rule, and the teacher will make a T-2 entry in PowerSchool. The student will be assigned lunch detention, and the parent/guardian will be contacted.

4th offense: Student will be reminded of the rule, and the teacher will make a T-3 entry in PowerSchool, which is an office referral.

****If a student continues to choose not to follow this expectation, the student will be removed from the classroom and will not be allowed to return until a parent meeting has occurred and a plan has been developed.****

Materials Needed:

1. Pen or pencil
2. 1 ½ inch 3-ring binder

Laboratory Safety Responsibility

Safety in the science laboratory is the #1 priority for students, teachers, and parents. A signed lab safety contract is required for all students to participate in labs. Students who choose to be unsafe in the lab will fail that lab assignment and be asked to complete an alternative assignment. ***For safety purposes, please notify the teacher of any food allergies.***

Students who choose to abuse and/or destroy lab materials or equipment will have to pay to have the item replaced

Electronic Devices

The Dixie Middle School “Personal Electronic Device” (PED) policy will be enforced (no cell phones, earbuds, gaming devices, etc. allowed during class time). Electronic devices that are found on a person will be sent to the front office, and the following actions will be taken:

First offense – the device(s) will be confiscated and may be picked up by the student from the office at the end of the school day.

Second offense – the device(s) will be confiscated and must be picked up from the office by a parent/guardian at the end of the school day.

Third offense – the device(s) will be confiscated and must be picked up by a parent/guardian from the school. A conference with an administrator will be held, during which disciplinary action may be taken. Actions may include suspending a child or

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sending them to the Focus Center for the remainder of the time if the situation cannot be resolved.

Some students will be tempted to take a device that does not belong to them. This is not being respectful but is stealing (stealing is not tolerated). If a student violates this expectation, the following progressive steps will apply:

1st offense – T-3 referral to the office

Additional offenses will be handled by the School Resource Officer.

Late Work

Work must be completed and submitted on time. Late work will be accepted without a point deduction. At mid-term and at the end of the quarter, assignments will become unavailable and unacceptable if submitted late. Unique situations will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Absences

Students, whether excused or not, are responsible for completing all work from the days not in class. An excused absence does NOT mean you are excused from the assignments completed that day. An excused absence means that a parent/guardian is aware that the student is not in class.

Quizzes/Assessments

Quizzes and other forms of assessment will be given to check for understanding. There are no quiz retakes, but a student may complete a quiz-fix paper to earn partial, 50%, of the points for the quiz. Keep in mind that a grade of 100% is reserved for the first attempt. All assessments must be taken in the science classroom or be proctored by another teacher at school.

Cheating

The minimum consequence for cheating will be a zero (for all parties involved) on that assignment. Assignments cannot be made up, and assessments will be averaged between the retake and the original zero.

Unit Test

At the end of each unit, a summative test will be given. There are no quiz-fixes or retakes on unit tests. Students are given tools to help them prepare and are allowed

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to use their science binder. Students are responsible for making sure they use all the tools provided to be successful on the test.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be provided for all students. Extra credit will be given at the end of every quarter.

Videos

Videos or video clips will be shown on occasion in the classroom and may carry a PG-13 rating. We plan to watch GATTACA. If this is a concern, please email me. All media is used to enhance learning, not for entertainment.

End of Year Test

Students will be given an end-of-year final on ALL essential standards of the Biology core. There are no retakes or corrections on the end-of-year test, but students are allowed to use any of their notes and assignments from their science binder throughout the year.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be in their assigned seats with all materials when the final bell rings. If this expectation is not met, students will be marked tardy. Tardiness will be handled in progressive steps as per the Dixie Middle School Handbook:

When a student reaches 3 tardies in science, they will be assigned lunch detention. When a student is tardy to one class by an excessive amount (20 minutes or more) of time, the student will be marked Way Late and assigned to lunch detention.

For further steps, see the Dixie Middle School Handbook.

Pro-Tips for Success in the Science Classroom

- **DON'T MISS CLASS**

- **DO ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME**

If you keep up with the daily assignments, you will keep up with the class.

- **BE PROACTIVE AND WILLING TO WORK**

- **CHECK CANVAS and POWERSCHOOL**

Most of the questions I get from students and parents can be answered by these supports. Please email me if something is still unclear.

- **COME SEE ME FOR HELP**

I want to help and see you succeed. I am available almost every day before (7:45 am) and after school (until 3:15 pm).