



## *The SEED School of Maryland*

### **10<sup>th</sup> Grade BIOLOGY**

#### **Course Syllabus**

Welcome to the School Year 2015-2016. Below are some of the class policies established to facilitate success for all students in this class. The SEED School of Maryland school policies will take the place of any of the following if they are found to be contradictory.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In the study of BIOLOGY, students are asked to use the skills and processes of science to investigate the uniqueness and the interdependence of living organisms, to explore the interactions of these organisms with the environment, and to explain the mechanism that provides for the continuation of life on Earth. At the elementary level, students explore organisms and the way they live in the environment. These early experiences serve as a foundation for learning that takes place in the future years. During the middle school years, students will be asked to recognize patterns of growth and development and investigate the cellular nature of living organisms. High school instruction focuses on more abstract and complex concepts. At this level, living things and their interactions with the environment are investigated from a chemical and physical perspective.

#### **MAJOR TOPICS OF STUDY: This course is divided into 10 units of study.**

<b>First Semester</b>	<b>Second Semester</b>
I. Skills and Processes A. Scientific Method B. Graphing, Ratios and Measurement C. Safety and Lab Equipment D. Data	VI. Cell growth and Reproduction A. Reproductive Strategies B. Chromosomes & Karyotyping C. Mitosis D. Meiosis
II. Chemistry of Life A. Macromolecules B. Vitamins and Minerals C. Properties of Water D. pH	VII. Genetics A. Mendelian Genetics & Punnet Square B. Genetic Mutations & Disorders C. DNA & RNA D. Genetic Engineering
III. Cells A. Microscope B. Cell Theory C. Cell Classification D. Cell Organelles and Function	VIII. Body Systems A. Levels of Structural Organization B. Cardiovascular, Respiratory Systems, Muscles C. Digestive and Excretory Systems D. Nervous & Endocrine Systems
IV. Homeostasis and cellular Transport A. Cell Membrane B. Diffusion & Osmosis C. Types of Transport D. Homeostasis in Plants & Animals	IX. Ecology A. Biotic vs. Abiotic Factors B. Nutrient Cycles C. Trophic Levels and Pyramids D. Food Chains & Food Webs
V. Energy A. ATP B. Photosynthesis & Cellular Respiration C. Chemosynthesis D. Enzymes – Reaction rates	V. Evolution A. Evidence for evolution B. Theories of Evolution C. Natural Selection D. Classification

## GRADING POLICY:

The following letter grades are issued at the Upper School, SEED School of Maryland:

<b>A</b> – 100% to 93% (4.0)	<b>B</b> – 86% to 83% (3.0)	<b>C</b> – 76% to 73% (2.0)
<b>A-</b> – 92% to 90% (3.75)	<b>B-</b> – 82% to 80% (2.75)	<b>C-</b> – 72% to 70% (1.75)
<b>B+</b> – 89% to 87% (3.25)	<b>C+</b> – 79% to 77% (2.25)	<b>F</b> – 69 & below (0.0)

The following percentage will be utilized in calculating a student grade:

<b>FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT</b>		
Class work assignments (independent practice), In class written responses (warm-up, journal reflection entries) Group work, Class Participation Grade (see below)		25%
Quizzes		25%
<b>SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS</b>		30%
Tests, Projects Major presentations (lab reports), Long writing assignments (term papers, lab skill)		
<b>HOMEWORK</b>		20%
Homework ( and vocabulary) worksheets		
<b>Quarter Grade</b>		<b>100%</b>

## CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK:

All class work assignments are due at the end of the period unless otherwise stated. This grading category include many types of assignments including (but not limited to) daily warm-up which will be checked and collected at the end of the time allotted, routine assignments completed in class, regular homework assignments, and class participation. Participation grades will be included in the grading policy, and they will be given according to the following system.

### **Participation:**

Students will receive a weekly participation grade on a 10 point basis. At the start of each week, students begin with a score of 8 of 10. This grade will rise and fall over the course of the week, according to the following guidelines. Positive behaviors may add 1-2 points, and negative behaviors may subtract 1-2 points. This chart is not intended to include all possible behaviors that may affect participation grades.

<b>Positive Behaviors</b>	<b>Negative Behaviors</b>
Asking a thoughtful question	Speaking out of turn or when inappropriate (-1)
Helping a fellow student when appropriate	Rudeness, or unkindness (-1 or -2)
Demonstrating positive leadership in a group setting	Unexcused tardiness/arriving unprepared for class (-1)
Working productively	Off task behavior (-1 or -2)
	Leaving the room without a pass (-1)
	Unexcused absence (-2 per day)

Some \*negative behaviors may also result in disciplinary action as described in this document

## ATTENDANCE:

You are strongly encouraged to come to class every day so that you will successfully **pass the course and eventually finish High School**. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class period. Secure a pass from your previous teacher if you know that you will be late for class. Students who come late to class must sign their name in the **Tardy notebook**. Repeated tardiness will result in a **referral to school administrators** and a **call home to your parent or guardian**. Students who are absent will have the opportunity to make-up any missed work in as many days as they have a valid, excused absence, and will receive full credit for that work. If you are absent you must provide a note signed by your parent/legal guardian to the school nurse in order for your absence to be excused. Without a proper documentation your absence may not be excused and this will result in your inability to make up any work. You may lose course credit if you fall below 90% attendance.

### **MAKE-UP WORK POLICY:**

Students will have as many days as they have excused absence to complete missing work. Students on academic probation must attend **Coach Class** (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Tuesday & Wednesday). **Re-testing** is available to those who fail their weekly exam, and is scheduled the same time as coach class. Sign-up sheets for re-testing will be posted on the Biology room door. No student will be allowed to re-test if their name is not on the list. Students who choose **not** to complete an assignment during class will not be given an opportunity to make-up that work. For example, if a student falls asleep in class or refuses to do the work, the teacher will grade the assignment as submitted. That grade earned stands, and the student will not have the opportunity to re-do the work for additional points.

### **DISCIPLINE:**

Classroom rules and procedures are implemented to establish routines in class. Teacher Detention for Level I infractions (failure to follow rules/procedures, classroom disruption, internet/computer misuse, etc) will be held in room 303 during your lunch break Monday to Friday. Students assigned to In School Personal Development (ISPD) room are responsible for getting all make up work from the teacher and turning it in as described in the previous section.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Every student must have the following materials everyday: binder, paper, pencils/pens, and required homework. Failure to bring these materials will cause you to be considered “unprepared” and may result in a call home. Other materials (colored pencils, markers, glue, scissors, etc) will be provided by the teacher on as needed basis.

### **AGENDA BOOKS:**

Students are expected to utilize their agenda books to record homework assignments, project due dates, student life events and other information critical to their planning and organization. Agenda books will be used as HALL PASSES by students if they need to travel from one location to another with teacher permission. Passes **will not** be issued the first 10 minutes of class or the last 10 minutes of a class period.

### **LAB SAFETY:**

To avoid accidents, each student must be responsible for pre-reviewing and observing proper safety laboratory procedures. If a student needs clarifications regarding any aspect of the laboratory or classroom exercise, he/she must not continue until after consulting with the teacher and fully understanding the procedures enough to proceed safely.

### **TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:**

BIOLOGY by Stephen Nowicki  
ISBN 978-0-547-58666-3  
Copyright 2012 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Dr. MA Legaspi  
Room 303  
Biology, Introduction to Medical Careers  
Phone: 410-843-9477 ext 720  
Email: [mlegaspi@seedschoolmd.org](mailto:mlegaspi@seedschoolmd.org)  
Website: (under construction)



*The SEED School of Maryland*  
**BIOLOGY PROCEDURES**

**Before entering the classroom**

- Attend to your personal needs before coming to class.
- Come to class promptly with the least amount of noise.

**Getting the Teacher's Attention**

- a. Raise your hand quietly
- b. Wait to be recognized

**Entering the classroom**

- Exchange greetings with Dr. Legaspi
- Proceed to the assigned seat quietly
- Start working on the bell work/warm-up immediately.

**Leaving the classroom**

- Clean your area and dispose all trash properly
- Wait for the teacher to finish final instructions and dismiss the class
- Push in the chair under the desk and leave the classroom quietly

**Distribution of Worksheets and Handouts**

- Classroom helper may distribute handouts
- Each student will get a copy and pass the rest of the stack to everyone on the table
- Extra papers should be handed back to the teacher for placement in the absentee folder.

**Submission of Worksheets and Handouts**

- Pass the paper(s) toward the front of the room quietly.
- All papers not submitted when prompted will be marked late.

**Tardy**

- Enter quietly and sign your name on the tardy notebook
- Place the tardy pass on the teacher's desk
- Unexcused: sign the detention folder
- Try and catch up with work immediately.

**Returning from an Absence**

- Check Absentee Folder for missed worksheet.
- See the teacher after class to confirm missed activities.
- Arrange due dates for missed work and activities with the teacher.

**Getting the Class' Attention Quietly  
(Give me three)**

- 1 finger: eyes and ears on me
- 2 fingers: all should be seated and quiet
- 3 fingers: ready to listen and begin

**Getting textbooks/other materials in the  
room/ sharpening pencil**

- Raise hand quietly and wait for teacher approval
- Only one student is allowed to sharpen his/her pencil at a time
- Return to seat quietly

**CONSEQUENCES**

- Verbal/Written Warning
- Student-teacher conference
- Loss of participation points
- Detention
- Call home
- Parent/Guardian conference
- Write-up/Office Referral

- Positive phone calls or notes to parents
- Verbally citing student accomplishments
- Displaying student work
- Bonus Points/Surprises
- Recognition
- Recommendation letters for colleges, work and scholarships