



Instructor: Mrs. Cortez

Room: Science Lab #2

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School Website: [www.hollandisd.org](http://www.hollandisd.org)

Conference: 9:40am –10:25am

Planbook: [www.planbook.com](http://www.planbook.com)

**Textbook:** *Biology*. McGraw-Hill. 2015

**Course Description:** Biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. Throughout the year, this course provides an opportunity for students to develop scientific process skills, laboratory techniques, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms. Students will explore biological science as a process, cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution and classification, diversity of living organisms and their ecological roles, and as an introduction to animal structure and function. An end of course test (EOC) will be administered in May, which covers objectives for both semesters.

#### Objectives/Goals:

- Teach students practical scientific skills, which they can use to investigate, study, and explain the world around them.
- Give students a deeper understanding of how biology impacts their daily lives.
- To encourage the spirit of scientific investigation and with it the attitudes of accuracy in thought and work.

#### Grading:

- Each nine weeks grade will consist of **25% Daily, 20% Quiz, 25% Lab, and 30% Test grades.** Tests may include chapter exams, lab exams, and major projects. Daily work may include class work, homework, and class participation. Labs will be hands-on activities and may take days to complete.
- **Labs**---labs are a MANDATORY part of this class. Labs will be written in lab notebooks.
- **Major Projects**---research projects may be assigned throughout the year. Each project will include a handout of details, expectations, and grading.
- **Semester examinations**---the semester exams in this class are cumulative in content, and count as a major part of the semester grade.

#### Supplies:

- **3-ring binder (at least 2" )**
- **Composition book (no spiral)**
- **Notebook paper**
- **Colored pencils**
- **Subject dividers (8-subject)**

### Class Policies:

- Late Homework – Late homework will not be given full credit. 10 points will be taken off every day it is late past the due date.
- Makeup work
  - If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain any assignments you missed while you were gone.
  - Approved absences—you have one day for each excused absence to make up your work. This includes daily grades and tests.
  - \*\*\*Tutoring must be done before any re-test is given
  - Missing exams must be taken before or after school within the time allowed.
  - If you are absent during a lab, you must make special arrangements to come in before or after school to make up or get an alternative assignment.
- Cheating/Plagiarism
  - Cheating on a test or assignment will result in a grade of **zero** for all involved.
  - Data for lab reports must be taken during the lab. Copying of lab data after the lab is not allowed. Each student is responsible for individual lab reports.

### Classroom Expectations:

- Students are expected to be in their seats and ready when the second bell rings.
- Materials (chromebook, pencil, paper, notebook, and binder) must be brought to class each day. If you do not bring the needed materials to class, you will be sent to your locker to get them and could receive a tardy if you are not in the room when the bell rings.
- The laboratory or room must be clean at the end of the period before leaving.

## ● Treat everyone with respect.

- Follow the instructions given by the teacher or lesson.
- All school rules will be followed as stated in the student handbook.
- **All safety rules as stated in the Flinn Science Safety Agreement must be followed.** You must sign and return in order to participate in labs.

### Keys for Success in Biology

1. **Have a positive attitude!**
2. I am here to help you succeed, so feel free to ask me for help. I am available before and after school in my room.
3. **Ask lots of questions.** If you are unclear about something from the textbook, lab, or from discussion, **ask!**
4. Make sure that you understand how the lecture, homework, and labs connect. Labs and homework are designed to reinforce significant ideas from the text. Make sure that you see these connections.
5. **Studying is not cramming the night before a test.** Start studying for a test early. By studying and reviewing each night, you are not only helping to prepare for the test more effectively, but you are also more prepared for class each day and any quizzes that may be given.