Biology Syllabus – 2018-2019
Sycamore High School

This syllabus is intended to provide a guide to class expectations and schedules. If necessary, the syllabus may be changed to accommodate the needs of the class. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of and understand the requirements listed in this syllabus.

Course Description:
This laboratory based course centers on the understanding of the structure, function, and interaction of living organisms. Topics of study include investigations into ecology and the interactions of organisms in an ecosystem, comparisons of cell processes and how they play a role in the human body, the structure of DNA and its role in the cell cycle and the types of cell division, an examination of genetic diversity, mutations, and inheritance patterns, and the application of genetics into evolutionary concepts that provide a foundation for biological processes. Students in biology should have basic science skills such as creating a data table, making a graph, and taking measurements. Biology is a lab class. Students are expected to work in collaborative groups for labs and projects. Communication of collected data and scientific concepts in the form of presentations and/or lab reports is expected.

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Physical Science or teacher recommendation

Level: 9, 10, 11, and 12 Semesters: 2 Credit: 1

Biology is an NCAA accredited course.

Teacher:
Eric Nore
Room G204
enore@syc427.org
Office hours: 7th period Monday – Friday, every day after school until 4:00 pm, or before school by appointment.

Sarah Chapman
Room Y142
schapman@syc427.org
Office hours: 1st period Monday – Friday or by appointment.

Other Biology Teachers:

Stephanie Bridge
Room G200
sbridge@syc427.org
Office hours: 9th period.

Scott Horlock
Room G208
shorlock@syc427.org
Office hours: 3rd period.

Ann Martinson
Room G210
amartinson@syc427.org
Office hours: 7th period.

Textbook: Exploring Life Biology by Prentice Hall

Class Website

- Resources can be found at Mr. Nore's Google Classroom. Students will be required to use their school gmail account for access Google Classrooms used throughout the school. Go to https://classroom.google.com you will need your school email which is set up following the format ID#@syc427.org (Example: if your ID number is 2536 then 2536@syc427.org).

- With student access complete, utilize the period specific code below to join the classroom.
    - 2nd period - 2we7zo

- Examples of resources found on the website include:
    - Printable copies of worksheets, review materials, classroom notes, labs, etc.
    - A calendar to track homework, tests, quizzes, and activities
    - Links to videos shown in class and additional videos supporting each unit of study
    - Websites to support understanding of material and create curiosity
    - Practice quizzes
- It is expected that students check their school email on a daily basis.
- Some assignments will be completed via the Google Classroom interface. Any student difficulty or limitations with access to Google Classroom should be communicated to the teacher immediately.

Course Objectives:

The Biology course is designed to provide students an active learning experience where students will address the Science Departments Critical Outcomes through biological topics.

Science Department Critical Outcomes:

1. Students will recognize and investigate problems, and formulate and propose solutions supported by reason and evidence. (Cited from the ISBE State Standards)
2. Students will formulate hypotheses based on observations, and conduct controlled experiments to test the identified hypotheses.
3. Students will follow precisely a complex multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks. (Cited from the Literacy Core Standards)
4. Students will organize, analyze, and evaluate data.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship(s) between the structure of matter and its properties and functions.
6. Applying conservation laws, students will demonstrate an understanding of matter and energy transformations in various processes and cycles.
7. Students will relate how various forces drive natural processes.
8. Students will use existing organizational and classification systems to connect scientific facts and concepts.
9. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationships among science, technology, and society in historical and contemporary contexts. (Cited from the ISBE State Standards)

Tentative Course Schedule:

DATES	TOPIC	CHAPTERS
08/14 – 09/18	Ecology	34, 35. 36
09/19 & 09/20	Unit I Test	
09/21 – 10/01	Ecology Poster project	
10/02 – 11/06	Unit 2: Organization of Matter & Energy Flow	4, 5, 7, 8
11/07	Unit 2 Test	
11/08 – 12/11	Unit 3: Cellular Organization & Homeostasis	6, 32
12/12 & 12/13	Unit 3 Test	
12/18 – 12/20	Semester 1 Final Exams	
12/21 - 01/05	Winter Break	
01/06 – 02/03	Unit 4: Cell Cycle, Meiosis, DNA & Genes	9, 11.1, 11.2
02/04 & 02/05	Unit 4 Test	
02/06 – 02/20	Unit 5: Protein Synthesis	11
02/21	Unit 5 Test	
02/22 – 03/18	Unit 6: Patterns of Inheritance	10
03/19	Unit 6 Test	
03/21 -03/29	Spring Break	
03/30 - 04/07	PBL Group Project	
04/08 – 05/13	Unit 7 Biological Evolution	14, 15
05/14 & 05/15	Unit 7 Test	
05/20 – 05/22	Semester 2 Final Exams	

Student Work:

Students will complete a variety of assignment types during Biology. Examples of this work include but are not limited to: reading assignments, practice questions, at home work, graphing, lab reports, quizzes, tests and projects. Work will be evaluated using a weighted scale.

- Work will be evaluated using a weighted scale.
    - Practice (counts toward 16% of overall grade): this includes activities such as reading assignments, work sheets, daily class work, and formative assessments (quizzes). There are approximately 100 practice points per unit. The number of points may change due to unit length or if the teacher deems it necessary for their class (e.g. an extra formative assessment is given to track student understanding).
    - Lab / Group Projects (counts toward 24% of overall grade): Each unit will have a number of labs and a lab assessment for an approximate value of 100 points. There will also be one group project per semester that will be included in this category.
    - Assessments (counts toward 40% of overall grade): There are 3 assessments (unit tests). Point values vary depending on content.
    - Semester Final (counts towards 20% of overall grade): An accumulation of the unit tests for the specific semester for which the final is over.
- The number of points in each category may vary with each topic of study.
- Quiz (formative assessment) re-takes are encouraged. Students can re-take the formative quizzes until 2 days prior to the unit test. The most current quiz score will be entered into Infinite Campus. Quiz re-takes may be required to help with a student's understanding of important content.
- Due to their nature, some in-class activities and demonstrations may not be made-up.

LATE WORK:

Any assignments (homework, class work, laboratory reports, etc.) handed in after the due date (late work) will be accepted with 50% deduction in the student's score if handed in before the corresponding summative assessment. All assignments handed in after the summative assessment will be given no credit (zero points).

Absences:

- It is the responsibility of the student to meet with the teacher at an appropriate time (before or after school is recommended) to discuss work that needs to be made up due to an absence.
- A student will be given one day to make up missed assignments for each day of an *excused* absence. For example, if a student misses two days of school, that student will have two days after returning to school to make up missed assignments.
- For a prearranged absence (field trips, in-school functions, vacations, college visits, AP exams, standardized testing, etc.) it is the student's responsibility to contact teacher prior to the absence to determine what the student will be missing in class. All homework and other assignments must be completed in advance, unless otherwise arranged with the teacher. Failure to complete assignments in advanced may result in loss of all credit for that work.
- Labs that are missed due to an excused absence must be made up within a week of returning to school.

Grading Scale:

A+ = 98-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	Below 60% = F
A = 93-97	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66	
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62	

Grades are calculated and updated as frequently as possible. Current grades are posted on the Campus Portal. If you haven't signed up for an account go to www.syc427.org , click on the *Infinite Campus* link, and follow the instructions. Students are encouraged to track their own progress on parent portal as well. Scores are not rounded, a 79.9 is a C+.

Technology in the Classroom:

Technology in the classroom includes but is not limited to calculators, Chromebooks, audio/visual media equipment, CPS systems, ELMOs, digital balances, electronic probe ware, etc. Students are expected to use this technology in an appropriate, safe, and responsible manner. Any student who fails to meet these expectations may lose the privilege of technology use and/or be charged for repair/replacement of the equipment.

Cell Phones:

Students are encouraged to use their cell phones in class when it is appropriate and when they have permission. Otherwise, the use of cell phones not permitted. Cell phones should be kept out of sight. Students will be offered an alternative location to place their phone if they feel it is necessary to prevent distractions during the class period. Consequences for inappropriate use of cell phones in class will result in a classroom detention after school that day or a referral to the Dean. Any use of a cell phone while a test or quiz is being given may result in a score of zero without the opportunity for a re-take.

Parents are encouraged to monitor their student's cell phone usage during school hours.

If an emergency arises please call the main office (815-899-8160) and the student will be contacted immediately.

**Continuous infractions of the Sycamore High School Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) may result in removal from the class with a failing grade.

Daily Supplies - Required:
Pencil/Pen
Paper (loose leaf or spiral notebook)
Lab notebook (spiral or composition)
Graph paper
Basic scientific calculator

Daily Supplies – Optional:
Textbook (Exploring Life)
Colored pencils or markers
3-Ring Binder (optional)
Science journal (optional)

Classroom Expectations:
- ✔ Come to class with a positive attitude and always give your best effort.
- ✔ Show respect for and be considerate of your classmates, yourself and your teacher
- ✔ All cell phones should be turned off and out of sight!
- ✔ Come to class on time, be in your seat when the bell rings
- ✔ Be prepared, come to class with the appropriate materials, assignments, and a charged Chromebook.
- ✔ Follow directions
- ✔ Use class/lab time appropriately.
- ✔ Follow laboratory safety rules during lab time.
- ✔ Clean up after yourself
- ✔ Follow school rules as printed in the student handbook.

Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior:
1st Offense: Verbal warning
2nd Offense: 15-minute detention, either before- or after-school, *to be served by 3:30 p.m. the following school day*. If this detention is not served, a discipline report will be filed with the Dean.
3rd Offense: student will be sent to the Dean
**Note: Any student may be immediately sent to the Dean if an incident warrants it.

Academic Dishonesty:
Any student suspected of or found cheating on a test or quiz may receive a grade of "zero" on that test or quiz. Any students found copying labs, activities, projects, or homework may receive a grade of "zero" or split the grade of the finished product with the other student(s) involved. Please Note - Any use of a cell phone during class where a test or quiz is being given may be considered cheating due to the ability to text message, photograph, etc.

Mr. Nore's Biology Syllabus

By signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the syllabus provided for Mr. Nore's Biology class.

Student Name (printed): _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email(s): _____

_____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Dear Parents,

If you have anything you would like to share about your student, please feel to use the space below (and back) or send me an email at any time. I look forward to the journey together!

Mr. Nore