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# Jaguar Biology Syllabus 2020-2021

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 School Phone: 965-9610

## School and Class Expectations:

In **Biology** we embody the Spirit of the Jaguar by:

- Caring first for others.
- Respecting the diverse natures and opinions of your peers and your teacher.
- Pursuing excellence through hard work.
- Creating a welcoming environment where every person feels valued and important.
- Bringing honor to yourself and your school through character and integrity.
- Collaborating with peers to accomplish common goals.

## Behavior expectations in class:

- Attending class
- Bringing required materials to class
- Participating in all learning activities
- Keeping materials updated and organized
- Completing in-class and outside-class practice exercises
- Showing respect for the learning of others.

Cell phones should be silenced and put away (off your desk in your school bag) when class begins. They must stay put away until the end of class, unless instructed to use cellular device for class

- ✓ These are expectations and skills that are needed to be successful in all areas of your academic and personal life.

## Course Objectives:

- To use biology concepts, vocabulary, evidence, and sound reasoning to explain the world around you.
  - To use problem solving and critical thinking skills to investigate, describe, analyze, and make sense of the living world around you.
  - To work productively both as an individual and as a member of a team.
  - To prepare for post-secondary education or career.
- ✓ In this course, you will be asked to practice the skills necessary to enable you to start thinking about the workings of the biological world.

## By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Students will develop models and conduct investigations to explain how different cell processes and system interactions enable an organism to maintain homeostasis.
- Students will use mathematical models and evaluate evidence to explain how the cycling of matter and the flow of energy affect the biodiversity and overall functioning of ecosystems.

- Students will ask questions, make and defend claims, and apply mathematical concepts to explain how the information stored in DNA leads to genetic variation within a population.
- Students will apply mathematical concepts and evaluate evidence to explain the concept of biological evolution by natural selection.

✓ These are the grade level standards reported on in Infinite Campus

**Required Materials:** Bring the following to class each day:

- Chromebook
- 3-ring binder with loose leaf paper
- Writing utensils: black/blue pens and pencils
- Colored pens or pencils
- Highlighters
- Earbuds
- Dry erase markers for working on desks

✓ Being successful means being prepared

#### **Mr. Vander Weerd's Schedule:**

Before School—Usually available for help.

Period 1 AP Environmental Science (room 1115)

Period 2 AP Environmental Science (room 1115)

Period 3 PLAN (room 1117)

LUNCH

Period 4L Enriched Biology (room 2113)

Period 5L Enriched Biology (room 2113)

Period 6 Enriched Biology (room 1116)

Period 7 PLAN/PLC (room 1117)

Period 8 AP Environmental Science (room 1404)

After School – Usually available for help if scheduled beforehand (after football season)

✓ If you need to come in for help, just ask and we can set up a time.

✓ Please bring a list of specific questions/topics that need to be addressed.

**If my schedule doesn't work for you, check out these teachers:**

Period 5L - Mrs. Leverich

Period 6 - Mrs. Singh

Period 2 - Mrs. Harken

SOS (Supporting our Students) is an after school program where students can get help with homework, make up tests, etc. It is from 3:50-4:50 Monday - Thursday in room 1102. No appointment needed.

#### **18-Week and Semester Grading Scale:**

Minimum Percent	Letter Grade
92.5	A
89.5	A-
86.5	B+
82.5	B
79.5	B-
76.5	C+
72.5	C
69.5	C-
66.5	D+
62.5	D
59.5	D-
< 59.5	F

- ✓ A 0-100 percent scale will be utilized at the secondary level in the Ankeny Community School District.
- ✓ Letter grades will continue to be assigned for all courses at the secondary level based on the 0-100 percent scale.
- ✓ When a rubric is converted to a letter grade, the 0-100 percent scale will be employed.

## Grading Practices:

**Your course grade** is determined by your understanding of the biology standards. Each skill will be graded using a 100-88-75-65 scale. **Students will be required to show minimum learning (65) on each skill in order to pass and receive credit for the course.** Once minimum learning is met for each skill, then scores in each standard will be averaged together to determine the 18-week grade.

Skills under each standard will be communicated at the beginning of learning. The skills under the standard will be assessed multiple times. **The goal is to assure learning is maintained or improves throughout the course.** Assessment may include, but is not limited to, individual practice, quizzes, exams, projects, and lab reports.

**Behavior** such as...

- Organization of your binder
- Punctuality to class
- Bringing necessary supplies
- Working as an individual and in a group/team

...will directly impact your learning but will **NOT** be a factor in your academic grade.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any violations will be dealt with in accordance with Ankeny School policy.

- ✓ To ensure that grades reflect progress toward and achievement of the standards, giving extra credit or bonus points will **NOT** occur in this class.
- ✓ The vision of the Ankeny Community Schools is that behavior will be reported separately from academic achievement.

## Grades represent Understanding of the standards and skills:

The grade of **A** is characteristic of a student who has a **strong understanding** of the standards and skills with **excellent** scientific reasoning skills.

The grade of **B** is characteristic of a student who has **an understanding** of the standards and skills with **good** scientific reasoning skills.

The grade of **C** is characteristic of a student that has **a basic understanding** of the standards and skills but is working toward mastery. They have basic scientific reasoning skills.

The grade of **D** is characteristic of a student who has **little understanding** of the standards and skills. They have **poor** scientific reasoning skills.

The grade of **F** is characteristic of a student who shows **no understanding** of the standards and skills. They have **poor or no** scientific reasoning skills.

The grade of **Incomplete (INC)** is given when:

- work has not been completed for learning to be assessed.

--OR--

- work completed has not met minimum expectations.

All work will need to be completed and meet minimum expectations to earn credit for the course.

### ✓ **Formative Assessment:**

Formal and informal processes teachers and students use to gather evidence for the purpose of improving learning.

- ✓ **Summative Assessment:** Assessments that provide evidence of student achievement for the purpose of making a judgment about student competence or program effectiveness.

## Academic Integrity

All students are expected to commit to high standards of personal and academic integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and document sources appropriately.

## Behavioral Expectations:

The work habits/behavior standards are for grades 6-12 courses in our district. These work habits/behavior standards will be reported throughout the semester and are as follows:

- Organization and Readiness
- Productivity and Accountability
- Collaboration Skills

We will be using the following performance levels:

- MS: Meets Standard
- PM: Partially Meets Standard
- DM: Doesn't Meet Standard
- NE: No Evidence

These descriptors are intended for feedback and communication and do not impact a student's GPA.

## Guidelines for retakes:

- You will be provided the opportunity to be reassessed on a skill.
- Your teacher will determine appropriateness and authentic need for reassessments.
- Generally, reassessments will be limited to one retake per assessment. Additional reassessments will be provided at the discretion of the teacher.
- Retakes will be taken within a reasonable time frame that the teacher determines. You will be informed of the deadline in advance.

✓ You will need to complete relearning, to be determined by you and the teacher, before a reassessment can occur.

## Homework/Independent Practice:

- Homework is an opportunity for you to practice skills, apply knowledge, review and build on past learning, and extend learning.
- Homework is individualized and based on your progress towards established standards.
- The purpose of the assignment will determine whether or not a grade is given. You will know in advance if the assignment will be graded.

✓ Through independent learning tasks (homework), you will assume more responsibility for your learning through opportunities to apply what you have learned to new situations or experiences.

## Make-up Work:

- YOU are responsible for collecting your make-up work. You will need to check the calendar for material covered and check with your teacher for missing work.
- Make-up work for all prearranged absences must be completed before you leave. This includes all school-related activities.
- If you are present in class when an assessment or project is announced, you are expected to complete the task on the scheduled day.

✓ Being successful means being responsible!