Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to Biology! The biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations and deepen student understanding of the biological sciences. The course will include concepts introduced in grades K-8 at a more abstract level. In-depth study of the following concepts is included: the cell, the molecular basis of heredity, biological evolution, the interdependence of organisms, matter, energy and organization in living systems, and the adaptive responses of organisms.

All students enrolled in Biology will be required and encouraged through different forms of assessment to master the concepts and skills in the Biology Standard Course of Study (SCOS). In an effort to ensure that students’ grades are equitable, fair, and based on learning and understanding the material presented throughout the semester, the Biology teachers at Apex High School have agreed upon a uniform grading policy.

The uniform grading policy will encourage students and teachers to create a positive learning environment and will ensure consistent grading in biology classes. While all biology teachers will teach the Biology SCOS and expose students to the same concepts, students will be given different assessments in the form of tests, labs, homework/class work, quizzes, and projects. Our individual teaching styles and choice of assessments are responsive to the unique group of students that we each teach. Although some of the assessment that we as biology teachers give are the same, the activities a student does in one class (labs, projects, class work, etc…) to help them master the concepts may not be the same assessments used in another biology class. Within those assessments given, teachers still have the flexibility in their grading of those assessments to reflect student achievement and demonstration of mastery of the standards.

The following guidelines will be used to evaluate biology students and their understanding of the materials and concepts in the SCOS.

Course Evaluation Grading Scale

Tests 40% A= 90-100

Labs 25% B= 80-89

Homework/Classwork 10% C= 70-79

Quizzess/Projects 25% D= 60-69

F= Less than 60

Students will be given tests based on materials presented in class. Students are responsible for all materials covered in class from notes, class work, homework, labs, projects, and videos. Homework, class work, projects, and labs are designed so that students can demonstrate their understanding of the material. As concepts in biology build on each other, it is essential that students complete their assignments when given. Students may turn in projects and labs late. The student will lose 10 points for each day the assignment is late. Honors classes may turn in late homework assignments one day late for a maximum of 50%. Academic students may turn in homework assignments late until the end of the quarter for a maximum of 50%. Student will also have the opportunity to complete test corrections in order to earn up to half of the missed credit back.

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Room: 404

**Course Description:** Biology is the study of living things and the processes they go through.

**Expectations:** Students are expected to try. Each student is expected to complete all assignments, study, and ask questions. I do not give grades, the students earn them. Students are expected to:

- Be present and on time for every class. If they are late or miss class they will be responsible for making up any missed work outside of class

- Be prepared for class. Students should bring all necessary materials to class and be ready to work.

- Pay attention to all classroom instruction and follow all guidelines. These include safety guidelines and procedures for lab, directions for assignments, and presentation of material

- Complete all assignments on time.

- Ask questions if you do not understand

- Follow all school rules

- Act in a mature, respectful, and responsible manner at all times.

**Consequences:** If I feel that the student is not following the rules I will warn them that their behavior is unacceptable. If the problem continues I will remove the student from the situation. If the problem persists I will then contact the parents and make a discipline referral to the office.

**Attendance:** Students are allowed a maximum of 10 absences per class. These absences include excused and unexcused. Students must present a note to the attendance clerk with in two days of returning from an absence in order for the absence to be changed to an excused absence.

**Make-up Work:** When a student is absent it is their responsibility to ask me for any missed work. It is also their responsibility to copy whatever notes they missed either from another student in the class or from me. If the student wishes to copy notes from me this will need to take place after school. I also post all power point presentations on blackboard. Students will be given 2 days to make up classwork and homework assignments. That means if the student is absent on Monday and present Tuesday, everything that student missed is due Thursday. Students will have one week to make up tests and labs. All missed work will need to be made up outside of class including missed tests. If a student misses class the day an assignment is due that assignment will be due the first day the student returns to school.

**Extra Help:** I am here every day after school until at least 3:00. If a student needs extra help please set up an appointment with me ahead of time. I recommend anyone who fails a test or drops a letter grade even if you go from an A to a B to seek extra help.

**Materials:** Each student has been provided a biology work book that they are responsible for bringing to class every day. The will need pencils and pens. They may also want highlighters, color pencils, paper, or glue sticks.

**If you would like to donate materials to the class we could use latex or vinyl gloves, Clorox wipes, color pencils, glue sticks, and paper towels.**