

# Duke Ellington School of the Arts

## Biology Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Susan M. Avant

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Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Prescribed Textbook: "Biology: The Dynamics of Life," Alton Biggs et al (2004) Glenco/McGraw-Hill

### Course Description:

Biology is a required laboratory science course. It concentrates on macroscopic and microscopic animals and plants. This course involves the study of how living things are set apart from non-living, scientific classification, multi-cellular plants, invertebrate animal life, vertebrate animals, and human biology. In addition, students will gain an appreciation of the incredible diversity in nature and the importance of the preservation of all life on earth. Students will apply the appropriate science skills and laboratory techniques to study concepts related to the biochemical nature of life, its forms and processes.

### Content Standards:

Students will study various scientific concepts under the following biology content standards:

1. Scientific Investigation and Inquiry
2. Chemistry of Living Things
3. Cell Biology
4. Genetics
5. Biological Evolution
6. Plant Biology
7. Mammalian Body
8. Ecosystems

### Course Outline:

The Biology student will perform the tasks outlined below:

- Observe and investigate the characteristics of living things and the explanation of their similarity, diversity, interrelationship, and classifications.
- Use the scientific method to ask and answer questions about the world.
- Acquire an understanding of the basic concepts of systems and their uses in explaining phenomena within the context of science and technology.
- Describe various chemical reactions that occur in organisms.
- Identify selected microorganisms and diseases they carry.
- Describe the structure and function of systems of organisms.

### Classroom Rules and Expectations:

1. Students should respect themselves, their peers, and the teacher.
2. All students are expected to be on time and in their seats when the bell rings. Late students will need a pass to enter class.

3. Students should come to class quietly and be prepared to work. Students should take care of all needs before entering the classroom.
4. Students will not eat, drink, or chew gum while in class.
5. Earphones, radios, instruments and other such playing devices should not be worn on any part of the body while in class.
6. Hats shall not be worn at any time in the classroom or school building.
7. A notebook is to be maintained in the manner directed by the teacher. All handouts should be kept in the notebook for future reference. Random notebook checks will take place to ensure the student is keeping up with the class and its assignments.
8. It is the student's responsibility to see the teacher about any assignments or tests missed resulting from absences.
9. Students must observe the safety precautions of the science laboratory areas. There should be no running or playing anytime.
10. The administration's attendance policy will be strictly enforced. Three or more tardies will constitute one unexcused absence. Five or more unexcused absences per advisory in any class shall result in the student receiving a grade of "F" (Failure due to absence) in that subject.

### **Materials and Supplies:**

Each student should report to class with the following:

- A Marble Composition book for ALL laboratory exercises
- A Notebook with sections for –NOTES, CLASSWROK/HOMEWORK, HANDOUTS, and VOCABULARY
- PENS and PENCILS

### **Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory and necessary for success in this class. Each student is responsible for being in class every day and on time! If a student is absent, he or she should call a classmate for assignments or check with me immediately upon arrival to the class.

### **Makeup Policy:**

Late homework is never accepted unless it results from an approved excused absence. If the absence is excused, then the student has as many days that he or she is absent to complete the assignment.

### **Cheating:**

Any form of cheating in Biology will not be tolerated and will receive a grade of zero, and, if necessary, disciplinary action. Copying or sharing homework, laboratory reports, or during tests is considered cheating.

### **Grading Criteria:**

Grades are based upon chapter tests, quizzes, laboratory reports, and nightly homework. A comprehensive final will be given at the end of each advisory and will count as 20% of the advisory grade.

**Tests:**

Tests are given every two to three weeks, generally after the completion of each chapter. Announced or unannounced quizzes are also given periodically.

**Laboratories:**

Laboratories are an important part of Biology. Each student must complete each laboratory to fully reach the course objectives and to receive credit for laboratory reports. (Laboratory report format will be given to each student.)

**Homework:**

Homework is assigned most nights and is due the next day before the bell rings unless otherwise instructed.

**The Grading Scale:**

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	64-66
F	63 and below
I	Incomplete (work must be completed within two weeks of the end of the advisory)

**Name of Study Buddy**\_\_\_\_\_

**Study Buddy's phone number**\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_

# Student

# Safety

# Contract

I will

- Follow all instructions given by the teacher.
- Read directions thoroughly before starting an activity.
- Protect eyes, face, hands, and body while conducting an activity.
- Know the location of first-aid and fire-fighting equipment.
- Conduct myself in a responsible manner at all times in a laboratory situation.

I, \_\_\_\_\_,

Have read and agree to abide by the safety regulations as set forth above and also any additional printed instructions provided by the teacher and/or District. I further agree to follow all other written and verbal instructions given in class.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parents or Guardian's signature