# Stanberry High School Biology Syllabus

2024-2025

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**Course Description, Requirements and Objectives**

This course will cover an in depth foundation in biology. This course includes laboratory work, study of specimens, projects, and a thorough understanding of scientific inquiry. Course content and objectives encompasses:

- Interrelationships of living things
- Levels of biological organization
- Cellular biology
- Biochemistry
- Genetics and
- Evolution.

Students should be prepared to conduct projects and write a formal lab report. Instruction centers around inquiry-based learning that is incorporated into class activities. Learning activities include teacher-lead instruction, group work, student seatwork, project-based learning, and lab exercises with both student-choice and teacher-choice grouping. Students can expect to start each day with a bell ringer assignment followed by learning activities and/or lecture. Students will ***often*** work independently from the teacher in order to achieve student autonomy expected of upper level students. Classes are structured to utilize every minute for learning and assessing understanding. Real world application is a daily objective. Higher-level thinking will be incorporated into each lesson as well as use of technology when applicable to increase student achievement. Students are expected to participate in all activities and actively engage and ask questions during teacher-led lecture. Students are also expected to review and study the content covered in class outside of school ***daily***.

**Class Expectations**

- Students are expected to **be present** and active members of the classroom each and every day.
- Students are expected to come to class **prepared** with all necessary materials and completed assignments to learn and participate in all lectures and activities.
- Students are expected to **be respectful** of the teacher, the classroom, and their peers.

**Class Discipline**

Students who are not acting present, coming prepared, and being respectful will earn one of the following consequences:

- Warning in class
- Removal from class activity AND parent contact
- Teacher/Student conference during or after class AND parent contact
- After school detention AND parent contact
- Written referral and removal from class AND parent contact
- **Any student caught cheating on an assignment will receive a zero and referred to the Principal.**
- **The cell phone policy will be strictly enforced. Smartwatches will be taken off and put away at the beginning of class.**

**Required Materials, Assessment & Policies**

All students must come to class each day with the following materials:

A. Biology notebook
B. Chromebook - charged
C. Writing utensil

**Assessment and Grading Plan**

We will cover seven units over the course of the year. Students will have a bellringer each day that will add up to a weekly grade. All unit tests are pre-tested and cumulative and include both multiple choice and open response questions. The activities and assignments list below are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. **Note:** ***Assignments checked for completion will not be accepted late. Assignments collected and graded for accuracy will be accepted late with a penalty of 10% off every day late and will be accepted up to the unit test.***

| 1st Semester | 2nd Semester |
|---|---|
| **Unit 1: Biology Basics**<br>- Sanitizer/Soap Lab Report (100 pts)<br>- Unit 1 Test: Concepts 1-3 (100 pts)<br>**Unit 2: Cells**<br>- Organelle Quiz (25 pts)<br>- Organelle Project (50 pts)<br>- Unit 2 Test: Concepts 1-3 (100 pts)<br>**Unit 3: Energy Flow**<br>- Unit 3 Test #1: Concepts 1-2 (100 pts)<br>- Unit 3 Test #2: Concepts 3-5 (100 pts)<br>**Unit 4: Genetics**<br>- Unit 4 Test: Concepts 1-3 (100 pts)<br>- Children's Book Project (100 pts) | **Unit 5: Heredity**<br>- Punnett Square Quiz (25 pts)<br>- Complex Inheritance Patterns Quiz (25 pts)<br>- Unit 5 Test: Concepts 1-4 (100 pts)<br>- Genetic Disorders Project (100 pts)<br>**Unit 6: Evolution**<br>- HWE Quiz (25 pts)<br>- Unit 6 Test: Concepts 1-4 (100 pts)<br>**Unit 7: Ecology**<br>- Nutrient Cycles Quiz (25 pts)<br>- Unit 7 Test #1: Concepts 1-3 (100 pts)<br>- Unit 7 Test #2: Concepts 4-6 (100 pts)<br>- Human Impact Project (100 pts) |

**Absences:**

Daily attendance is strongly recommended in this course (and all other courses). Makeup privileges will be as follows:

- If you are absent due to a school function (extracurricular activities, field trips, etc.), you are expected to get your assignments PRIOR to your leave and complete them by the due date. It will be your responsibility to come in for any additional help as needed before/after school to get the work done on time.
- If you have an excused absence, (not due to a school function), you are expected to see me before or afterschool on the day you return to pick up all makeup work. Do not expect assignments to be given to you during valuable class time. Students must have makeup work completed by the time they take the associated unit test. No makeup work will be accepted after the unit test.
- All makeup tests will be given before or after school and may not be the same tests as given to other students.

**Testing:**

Biology is a challenging class and students need to learn how to effectively study and take tests. Students often do not know the difference between "recognizing" a concept and "knowing" it. Students are usually well trained to recognize answers when given test banks or sets of possible answers, but are sometimes unable to generate complete answers in writing, which requires that they know the material. To help students make this transition, students will be allowed to retake written sections of a unit test (by learning target) if they receive less than a 70% on that learning target section. The student must meet two criteria to be eligible for a retake: 1.) the student must have all assignments turned in for the unit 2.) the student must come in to go over their previous test prior to taking the retake. The maximum score the student can receive is a 70% on the retake. This privilege is used at the teacher's discretion.

**Lab Policy:**

he/she must come in before or after school to complete the assignment. Even if lab work is done in pairs or small groups, each individual is expected to turn in his/her own work unless told otherwise. Data is shared, not the interpretation of the data. Plagiarism will not earn credit.

**Grading Policy/Assessment**

**A. Grading Scale**

The grading scale for the course is:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **96-100** | **A** | **73-76** | **C** |
| **90-95** | **A-** | **70-72** | **C-** |
| **87-89** | **B+** | **67-69** | **D+** |
| **84-86** | **B** | **63-66** | **D** |
| **80-83** | **B-** | **60-62** | **D-** |
| **77-79** | **C+** | **Below 60** | **F** |

**Course Procedures**

- Students need to be in their seats when the bell rings and begin working on the daily bell ringer.
- Biology class is to be used for the study of biology. You will not be allowed to work on homework from any other class unless your biology work is complete. Any homework from other classes that is out when you should be working on biology will be confiscated.
- Labs need to be cleaned up appropriately before the end of class bell rings. There should be no used paper towels or lab materials left on the floor or counters, the sinks and strainer should be clean, and lab equipment returned to the proper place.
- Students must be in their seats at the end of class in order to be dismissed. The teacher will dismiss the students, not the bell.

**Additional Information**

My intent is to help all students be successful and to facilitate a positive learning environment. I am easy to get along with, but I have high expectations for all of my students. I will not accept anything less than your best and you shouldn't either. I am at school by 7:30 a.m. and stay until at least 4:00 p.m. I am willing to stay later if a student needs help. Don't hesitate to ask for help or to discuss grades! Communication is key.

**Communication**

I will regularly post on google classroom updates, announcements, lecture notes, and assignments for students to access. If you ever want to know something, check google classroom first! Students and parents are also encouraged to contact me via email. I do not respond to email after I have left for the day or weekends. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours during the school week. I can also be reached by phone before, after school and on my plan time.

Email: **rhoover@stanberryschools.org** Google classroom code: _____