Syllabus

Biology is broadly defined as the study of living things. During this school year, we will investigate and develop our understanding of what biology means for us – specifically, we will study the form and function of living things on a number of levels. We will use NGSS Science and Engineering Practices to build our understanding. Through our inquiries, experiments, and discussions, our understanding of biology will grow and we will begin to understand the incredible diversity of life on earth, and the amazing similarities shared by all living things. We will cover the following topics:

Course Outline

Unit 0: Introductions and Scientific Method
Unit 1: Biology of Disease
Unit 2: Genetics
Unit 3: Evolution
Unit 4: Ecosystem Dynamics
Unit 5: Energy in living systems

Classroom Expectations:

The Viking Way: Guidelines for Success:

1. Be Accountable – Only you can determine your level of success. Being accountable includes things like attendance and punctuality, making sure you are prepared for class with all of your materials, following the dress code and ID policy, and following procedures.
2. Be Honorable – Always treat yourself, your classmates and teacher, and your surroundings with courtesy and respect while attending this class.
3. Be Scholarly – Always try your best. Do your homework on time, study for quizzes and tests, ask for help when you need it, and never give up.

Classroom Rules:

1. Follow the guidelines for success listed above.
2. The “School-Wide Rules” apply in this classroom.
3. Food and drink are not allowed.
4. Academic dishonesty will absolutely not be tolerated. Cheating, copying and/or plagiarizing any work will result in a 0% for that assignment, a phone call home, and a referral to the disciplinary office. This applies to all parties involved!

Cell Phone Policy: According to the “School-Wide Rules”, cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in this class, unless specifically allowed by the teacher for educational purposes. If a student is found using a phone or other electronic device without prior approval, the following consequences will be given:

First offense: A verbal reminder will be given, and it will be logged that a reminder was given.
Second offense: A verbal reminder will be given, a student-teacher conference will be held after class, and it will be logged that a conversation was had.
Third offense: A verbal reminder will be given, and a phone call home will be made to discuss the ongoing issue, and it will be logged that a phone call home was made.
Fourth and further offenses: The behavior will be referred to the Dean’s Office for disciplinary action.
**Grading Policy:**

Grades will be based on the criteria listed below.

- **Formative Assessments (50%)**
  - Approaches to Learning, Class Activities, Homework, Weekly Quizzes, Bellringers, etc.
- **Summative Assessments (50%)**
  - Exams, Final Lab Reports, Final Exam (10%).

Student grades are based on a point scale with the total points for each criteria determining the percentage, which is then converted into a letter grade. Progress reports are issued every five weeks and course grades issued quarterly.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage scale:</th>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 – 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>59 and lower</td>
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**Late Work Policy**

All assignments are due on the day indicated. Late work will be accepted for *half credit*, within *one week* of the due date. If you have an excused absence, homework should be turned in when you return to class, along with the note excusing your absence. Quizzes or tests that are missed due to unexcused absence may not be made up. Those missed due to excused absence may be made up before or after school within one day of your return.

**Student Grades and Attendance will be available online for all parents and students.** Students wishing to discuss their progress should arrange to meet with me outside of class-time (i.e., before school, after school, during my preparation time).

Whenever possible, class assignments and materials will be posted on the google classroom web page.

Please bring each of the following items with you to class, every day.

1. A binder used exclusively for this class.
2. A supply of looseleaf paper, graph paper, or a spiral notebook with perforated edges
3. A pen or pencil.
Biology Class Binder

For this class, every student will be required to have a binder that is used exclusively for this class. All of your work will be kept in the binder, and much of your grade will be based on it. In other words, it will become a very important document of your work and progress in this class.

What you need:
- A 3-ring binder. Binder must be at least 1 inch thick. 1 1/2” may be better, but the minimum is 1”
- A set of 8 binder dividers. These come in many different forms, and any will do. They seem to be sold in packs of either 5 or 8, but please make sure you have at least 8.
- A supply of loose-leaf paper or a notebook with perforated edges. No “tear ‘em out” notebook pages, please.

How you will use it:
- You will keep your binder in the classroom, and get it out at the beginning of class, EVERY DAY.
- Obviously, there will be eight sections in this binder, and virtually all of the work we do in and for this class will have a place in it.
  - The sections will be labeled for each major unit of study (Don’t worry, we’ll set these up together)
  - Each new item/assignment will be placed chronologically in the appropriate section (We’ll practice).
- Homework and other grades will be issued periodically based on what is in the binder on the day they are collected (this is to assure that you will keep all assignments and papers in the binder).
- Finally, you will be allowed to take your binder home before exams, and if you have kept it up to date, it should be an excellent study resource.

Please have your binder & supplies with you in class by this **Friday, September 6, 2019**.

If you need help getting the required materials, please see me or have your parent/guardian contact me by Thursday, and we can work something out. If you are buying all of the supplies new, you should estimate your cost to be between $5 and $10.

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I have reviewed this syllabus with my parent/guardian, and I understand that I can contact Mr. Voss with any questions that I might have. Please return this form to class by Thursday, September 5, 2019.

**Student Name (Print)_____________________________ Period ________**

**Student Signature _______________________________ Date ________**

**Parent Signature _______________________________ Date ________**

**Parent Phone Number ___________________________ Cell Phone: __________________________**

**Parent Email: _____________________________________________________________**