

Biology

Syllabus: 2016-2017

Ms. Clarissa Buchholz

Room B3

Email: buchholzcn@nclack.k12.or.us

Phone: 503-353-5870 Ext 38530

Course Description

This course examines the nature of life and explains the basic properties and activities of the living world. In this class we will develop an understanding of basic biology concepts through notes, labs, and activities. At the end of this course, students will be prepared to build on their knowledge in future science classes at RPHS.

Required Materials

- Composition Notebook: 100 pages, college ruled (**NO SPIRALS ALLOWED**)
- All materials in your AVID binder (see checklist). Material checks will be done weekly.

Classroom Expectations and Guidelines

1. **Shared Respect.** Respect yourself and others in the class. We will be working and learning together all year, requiring a high level of mutual respect for all individuals in our community. There will be a 0 tolerance policy for hateful words or actions.
2. **Attitude.** Our class will be a positive learning environment. I expect all students to give their personal 100% every day. I will work to help all students hold a growth mindset throughout the year to achieve personal goals. Leave the drama at the door!
3. **Attendance.** I expect you to be in class each day. Most of the material and work covered in biology will be done in class. Failure to attend AND participate in class regularly will result in a poor grade. See grading policy for details.
4. **Organization.** Use the tools provided in class to remain organized and prepared for class each day. This means having the supplies needed for success at the start of each class (AVID binder), using a planner, and maintaining an organized interactive notebook. See Ms. Buchholz if you need help obtaining supplies or want help organizing.
5. **Efficiency.** You are expected to work hard from bell to bell. This means being in your seat and working when the bell rings, as well as staying in your seat until you are dismissed at the end of class. Students will receive lunch detention if tardy 3 times in a semester.
6. **Focus.** There will be a no tolerance policy for the use of phones and electronics during class time. Students should remain in their seat during teacher instruction; Breaks will be given to attend to sharpening pencils, throwing trash away, water breaks, etc. Use the restroom before class; each student will have the privilege of 3 bathroom passes each semester.

Course Outline

Units of study will focus on one larger concept in Biology. Learning targets will be adapted from the Next Generation Science Standards-life science. Each class period we will tackle a new concept in biology through lecture, inquiry, current events, and creative processing. Each unit will have at least one mid-unit quiz, and one unit exam.

1st Semester

1. Intro to Biochemistry
2. Cell Structure and Function
3. Cell Processes and Differentiation
4. DNA, RNA, and Proteins

2nd Semester

5. Genetics
6. Evolution
7. Energy Cycling
8. Ecosystems

Grading Policies

- 1. Grading Breakdown.** Students' grades will be determined by four categories of work.

Interactive Notebook	40%
Lab Reports and Projects	30%
Exam & Quizzes	30%
- 2. Interactive Notebook (INB).** All classwork (warm-ups, notes, activities) will be done in an INB. Students will get credit (stamps) for completion and effort, and notebooks will be collected and graded once a unit. Students are expected to keep their notebooks organized and on track with the class notebook. The INB is your own personal textbook!
- 3. Exams.** Each unit will have a summative exam over the learning targets covered in class. We will always have a review class period before an exam. All tests may be re-taken during designated retake times if the student has completed a test correction form.
- 4. Lab Reports and Projects.** Throughout the course, students will be assigned formal write-ups, and other creative projects and presentations. These assignments will be graded using a rubric. Guidelines and expectations for these assignments will be given in class.
- 5. Quizzes.** Each unit will have 1-3 quizzes. Dates for these quizzes will be given to students at the start of the unit. Each student can drop their lowest quiz grade of the semester.
- 6. Absent Work Policy.** Students are expected to be responsible for days that they have missed. All handouts and materials from past classes will be organized by page number in a filing container. Students should look at the example INB to catch up outside of class time.
- 7. Late Work.** INB work will be stamped on the day that it is due for full credit (5 points each stamp). Any work completed after the due date will be stamped with a different color representing 3 pts per stamp. Any late submissions of projects will be discussed with Ms. B.
- 8. Academic Honesty.** Plagiarism will not be tolerated in the classroom. This includes, copying another student's work, using cheat sheets on exams, or copying materials such as books, articles or the Internet word for word. Without exception, students caught cheating will be given a 0% grade on the assignment, and parents will be called.

