



Hoboken Charter School

Welcome to Biology with Mr. Maurizi Course Syllabus

Biology is the study of living things and the environments they live in. Within Biology there are many other schools of science, i.e. Ecology, Genetics, Organic Chemistry and Botany. A Curriculum Map is attached which outlines the topics that will be covered through January. Additional topics may be added and deviations may occur depending on individual classes and the ability of the students to process the information.

Expectations

As part of the AVID program, students are expected to maintain an interactive science notebook with daily notes and activities. This notebook will be separate from the AVID 3-Ring Binder used for all other classes. Homework assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class the day after they are assigned, with the exception of long term projects and labs. Work missed due to absence must be made up immediately upon the student's return to class. It is the student's responsibility to seek help from instructors or classmates with regard to work missed.

Textbook

Johnson, George B., **Biology: Visualizing Life**, Holt Rinehart and Winston. 1998.

Laboratories

Lateness and Absenteeism is detrimental to the student's understanding of the Lab, material being learned and is a disruption to the other students who are present and arrived on time!

Students will be instructed in the proper use and care of laboratory instruments. Equipment is to be shared between lab partners. Each student is responsible for the equipment. Students will be charged for the loss and breakage of materials and equipment.

All data will be accumulated together; however each student is required to submit their own comprehensive lab report. Each group is responsible for cleanup of their lab station at the end of the lab period. It is important to clean all glassware and tabletops. All items must be returned to their original place in order that they can be used again.

Students will be entrusted with professional equipment, therefore self-discipline is expected in the laboratory. This is a very important safety situation.

Absenteeism

Absentees are required to confer with the teacher the first day back. (NOT DURING CLASS TIME!)

Students will have one week to make up a missed lab. **Tests will be given the day of return!**

If students know they will be absent for extended periods of time, arrangements must be made through the main office to pick up assignments.

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Grading System

Grades will be based on overall performance in class. Earning an A will require more than just doing well on the tests and quizzes. The grade measures performance on multiple assessments:

Tests- Tests are given after the completion of a major unit or the culmination of several small units - **40%**

Quizzes- Quizzes will be used as a way to assess the progress of students throughout a unit as well as for Science Novel readings. **- 10%**

Lab Reports- Lab Reports are mandatory assignments that are based on Labs performed on specified days of the week. **- 25%**

Annotated Bibliographies- Students will read numerous articles and journal entries from Newspapers, Magazines and scientific journals throughout the year **- 15%**

Homework- Homework is assigned every night and must be completed on time and effort displayed. Missed assignments will be written on goldenrod paper with reason(s) for not completing **- 10%**

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism have become prevalent in all levels of the American classroom. A section found in the non-negotiable rules may clear up any confusion about what is considered honest and what is considered cheating/ plagiarism.

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9th Grade Biology 1st Semester Curriculum Map

- I. Scientific Method (Sept 2008)
 - A. Purpose, Hypothesis, Materials, Procedure, Observations, Conclusion
 - B. How to write a proper Lab Report

- II. Properties of Living Things (Sept & Oct 2008)
 - A. Cellular Organization
 - B. Reproduction
 - C. Metabolism
 - D. Homeostasis
 - E. Heredity
 - F. Growth and Development
 - G. Responsiveness

- III. Ecology (Oct 2008)
 - A. Ecosystems
 - B. How Ecosystems Change

- IV. The Cell (Nov & Dec 2008)
 - A. Prokaryotic vs. Eukaryotic
 - B. Cell Organelles
 - C. Cell Chemistry
 - 1. Cellular Respiration
 - 2. Cellular Fermentation
 - 3. Photosynthesis
 - D. Cellular Reproduction
 - 1. Mitosis
 - 2. Meiosis

- V. Genetics (Dec 2008- Jan 2009)
 - A. Gregor Mendel
 - B. Inheritance