**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Biology with Mr. Renick

2023-2024 SY

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (814) 874-6200x3463

E-mail: krenick@eriesd.org

Teacher Page: https://www.eriesd.org/Domain/2424

Extra Help:Wednesday after school or any day before school with a pass

**Course Overview:**

Provide opportunities to develop an understanding of the major themes of biology such as the characteristics of life, chemistry of life, cellular structure and activity, genetics, evolution, anatomy and ecology. Engage with inquiry-based labs and hands-on activities to reinforce concepts learned during the year. At the conclusion of the course, students will take the state mandated Biology Keystone Exam.

What we know today about biology is a result of inquiry. Science is a way of knowing. Therefore, the process of inquiry in science and developing critical thinking skills is the most important part of this course.

**Textbook:** Inspire Biology.  McGraw Hill, 2020.

**Units: Order subject to change**

| Title |
| --- |
| Nature of Science |
| The Cell |
| Chemistry of Life |
| Bioenergetics |
| Cell Cycle |
| DNA/Protein Synthesis |
| Genetics |

**Grade:** Each student’s grade will be divided into three types of grades: participation, formative and summative. Participation grades consist of daily class points and homework (because you can’t contribute to class if you have no idea what we are talking about). Formative grades are any assignment where students are being introduced to new content or practicing with new material. Summative grades are any assignments that assess your knowledge of content.

| **Participation: 10%** | **Formative: 40 %** | **Summative: 50%** | HONORS  A: 93 - 100%  B: 85 - 92%  C: 70 - 84%  REGULAR  A: 90 - 100%  B: 80 - 89%  C: 70 - 79%  D: 65 - 69%  Only shown to lowest passing grade |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Contributing in class | Inquiry Labs | Tests/Quizzes |
| Homework | Classwork | Projects |
|  | In Class Activities | Formal Lab Reports |

**Biology Supplies:** Chromebook, Internet Access, Colored Pencils (class sets available also), Writing Utensils, Folder or Binder

**General Expectations:**

* Come to class on time, ready to work.
* Don’t be a distraction during class.
* Ask questions when you have them.
* I will let you know when we are done for the day.
* BE NICE TO ONE ANOTHER
* The Minor and Major Continuum as set forth by school administration will be followed.

**Late Work/Make Up Work Policy:**

* Work will be accepted until the end of the quarter in which it was assigned for full credit. After the quarter ends all missing work will become a Zero “0” unless previously arranged with Mr. Renick.

Last day of each quarter as follows: (Q1 - Nov. 1/Q2 - Jan. 19/Q3 - Mar. 22/Q4 - May 31)

* If a student is absent or sick, it is their responsibility to get class notes and handouts from online or a classmate. Asking the teacher can be done before or after class. The student is responsible for checking online or asking the teacher about make-up work! I can always be reached through email.
* \*\*\*CAVEAT\*\*\* Summative Assessments (Tests/Quizzes) must be made up within 5 (school) days after you return. I also reserve the right to give you an alternative assessment.

**Cell Phone Policy:**

* Pay attention during class...Phone in your pocket or bag and on SILENT when Mr. Renick is talking! I give you my full attention when you speak and I expect the same courtesy.

**Cheating Policy:**

* The district-wide cheating policy will be followed in Biology.
* Cheating on a test or assignment or plagiarizing someone else's work will result in an automatic “0” for the grade. The student will also receive a referral on Infinite Campus.
* *Copying and pasting answers from the internet is cheating.* Trust me, I know when you do it, so don't.

**Structure of Lessons:**

* Intro/Bellringer
* Lecture/Notes
* Laboratory Experiences
* Activities & Inquiry based lessons
* Data Analysis
* Practice Problems

**Laboratory Experiences:**

* These will be a mix of virtual and hands on this year. Students are expected to participate in labs and contribute to your groups.
* **Lab Rules: (Short Version)**
* 1. Wash your hands afterwards.
* 2. No eating or drinking...seriously nothing at the tables.
* 3. Wear glasses when instructed.
* 4. No messing around. I will have you removed from class during the lab if you cannot control yourself.
* 5. Do your best work.

**What you can expect from Mr. Renick as your biology teacher:**

* Fairness…You are all treated equally as young adults.
* Understanding…Life is hard, if you are having trouble let me know.
* Dad jokes…terrible and often.
* Respect…given and expected in return.
* Accountability…I will grade work daily, update Infinite Campus weekly and call home if you are failing bi-weekly.
* Candy…I am not above bribery when it comes to engaging students.