**Biology Syllabus Mr. Santiago**

 Email: santiami@orange.k12.nj.us

 **Overview:**

 The Biology Course is to provide students with the biological principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the diversity of life and the interrelationships between organisms and their environment. Students develop an understanding and knowledge of the unit of life – the cell – whose structures and processes are shared by all living organisms and, in so doing, gain an insight into the uniqueness, function, and role of organisms, including themselves. In addition, gain insight into how humans use and manipulate other living organisms to generate products that enhance human health and the environment. Finally, students will be able to make informed decisions about biological issues.

**BIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS**

1. Matter and Energy Transformations in Ecosystem Instructional
2. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
3. Human Activity and Climate
4. Human Activity and Biodiversity
5. Cell Specialization and Homeostasis
6. DNA and Inheritance
7. Natural Selection
8. Evolution

**COURSE GOALS**

1. All living things are interconnected - from molecules through cells, tissues, organs, individuals, populations, species, communities, and biomes.
2. Biological concepts have a profound effect on all aspects of our lives and the lives of other organisms.
3. Biology provides the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about legal, ethical, and societal issues that biotechnology raises.
4. This course is designed to prepare students for The NJSLA Science Exam for High School students, to be taken in grade 11, as well as provide a foundation for college level coursework.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

| 1. Respect, Responsibility, Safety
2. Attendance & Punctuality
 | 1. Preparedness
2. Note Taking Proficiency
 | 1. Habits of Work
2. Varied Assignment Completion
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 **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Students should bring the following items to each class:

1. chromebook
2. notebook/binder (ONLY for Science)
3. pen or pencil
4. folder
5. Highlighters (2 colors)

**DIGITAL PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS**

All portfolios must have the following documents uploaded by the end of the school year:

* 8 Pieces of your best work from the course. (2 per marking period)
* 1 lab report
* 1 powerpoint configuration
* Personal Statement
* Resume
* 2 Letters of Recommendations

**GRADING**

* **A+** 97.0 100.0
* **A** 90.0 96.99
* **B+** 87.0 89.99
* **B** 80.0 86.99
* **C+** 77.0 79.99
* **C** 70.0 76.99
* **D+** 67.0 69.99
* **D** 65.0 66.99
* **F** 50.0 65.0

**ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENTS**

1. Check the google classroom page daily.
2. Review your notes daily, and read the related chapter sections in the textbook (see Google Classroom for this information)
3. Work is typically due the following class after it is assigned, unless otherwise specified.

**MAKE-UP WORK**

\*\*ALL LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO BE PENALIZED.\*\*

If you are absent, you are expected to check the Google Classroom website & to contact me (via email/in person) to discuss making up work.

* **Summative assignments:**
	+ DUE DATE - the date when an assignment is expected to be turned in.
	+ Assignments that are handed in **AFTER THE DUE DATE** will have **point deductions for each day** that the assignment is late.
	+ Assignments that are more than 1 week late will not be accepted, and they will be entered as zeros in the gradebook.
* **Summative assessments**:
	+ ASSESSMENT DATE - the date when all students are expected to sit for and complete an assessment.
	+ RETAKE PROCEDURE - In order to be eligible for an assessment retake a student must first meet with me once they have returned to school to determine the date for the retake. The retake will be an alternative assignment

**BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

**Mutual Respect**

* Both teacher and student must refer to each other professionally.
* No profanity will be tolerated in conversations with peers or teachers.
* No tolerance for violence or inappropriate physical contact.
* Students will raise their hand to speak.
* Students must sign in and out of the room with teacher’s permission.
* Students must have a Pass to leave the classroom.
* Passes must be utilized at any time students leave the classroom. It is not permissible for students to leave the classroom without permission. Not adhering to this rule will result in higher disciplinary action.
* Classes will be dismissed at the teacher’s discretion after the sounding of the bell.

**ATTENDANCE & LATENESS POLICY**

Students must arrive to class before the bell. Late students must have a pass from another teacher or faculty member. Any student who arrives to class late will have to speak with me after class. If lateness becomes a habit then further action will be taken.

**Absences**

* Any unexcused absence may result in a phone call home.
* Students are required to make-up any missed assignments during their absence.

**COMMUNICATION**

* Communication between home and school is important in helping students succeed and there are ways to maintain that connection.
* **Contact**: Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. The best way to communicate with me, aside from in-person, is through email. I can also be contacted via telephone during preparatory periods or after school. You may leave a message with the main office as well and I will return your call as soon as possible. I frequently check my emails during school hours so reaching me is not a problem. You can always shoot me a text on the remind 101 app as well.

**PARTICIPATION & STUDY TIPS!**

These are some suggestions on what you should do to help you succeed in Biology:

1. Take notes during class. Listen for cues and write additional information that I say, not just what’s on the Google Slides presentation. Review daily.

2. Do your homework the day it's assigned, while it’s fresh on your mind. If you get stuck, you can reach out to me via email or we can set up a Google Meet/Zoom meeting.

3. Know your areas of weaknesses & study towards them by:

1. checking your answers before work is due to make sure you’re doing it correctly.
2. redoing the worksheets (posted on Google Classroom) multiple times without your notes and use them as practice tests.
3. doing the study guides at least twice (once with help from notes & once w/o notes to test your knowledge).

4. Memorization is not the best strategy. Teach the material to someone. Being able to explain how something works will help you learn and retain information better. Tutoring is available after school.

5. Do the practice test for each unit multiple times. When I have you do the practice test in class, you should write the correct answers down when we check them so you’ll have the answers at home.

6. Read the assigned pages, and have your notes with you as you read to follow along. Write questions to ask in class if something is unclear.

7. Make flashcards to study from.

8. Participate and ask questions in class. You tend to remember things better when you’re actively involved.

9. Try rewriting notes. Sometimes it just helps to write things down a few times.

10. Don’t be afraid to be wrong as long as you learn from your mistakes!

\*\*Syllabus is subject to change at my discretion\*\*

I have read, and understood the syllabus for Mr. Santiago’s Biology Course at Orange High School.

Student’s signature

Parent/Guardian’s signature

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information:**

Parent/Guardian 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Preferred Method of Contact (circle one): Phone Email

Parent/Guardian 2:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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