

# ACADEMIC BIOLOGY CLASSROOM POLICY

2014-2015 ~ Mr. Renoll ~ 602

mike\_renoll@sbsd.k12.pa.us

www.renoll.weebly.com



**Welcome** to biology! My goal for this year is to provide an opportunity for every biology student to explore the many themes of life science through interactive, hands-on activities. In order to be successful in school or in any other responsibility in life, one must be self-disciplined and follow the rules of his/her group. Failure to do this results in the inability to make a positive, lasting contribution and become better at what one is doing. With this in mind, all students are expected to follow the guidelines listed below and to make a positive contribution to this class and to themselves. Let's work together so that everyone can benefit!

## CLASS GUIDELINES

### 1. BE PREPARED

- Be sure to have a pen or pencil, notebook, textbook, and any assignment to be handed in. If you need a pencil or eraser, you may borrow one from the supply table but must return it at the end of class.
- Please bring your book to class EVERY day unless told otherwise. *All books should have a book cover on them at all times.*

### 2. BE RESPECTFUL

- Please note that food, and drinks are not acceptable in a lab classroom unless permission is granted. Water bottles are not permitted unless you have a note from the nurse.
- Be quiet when other people are talking. Talking while I am teaching or giving instructions will also not be tolerated. Be courteous to everyone in the classroom.
- Use lab equipment and microscopes with care.
- Be respectful of other people's property, belongings, as well as their opinions and feelings. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS RUDE LANGUAGE OR BEHAVIOR ACCEPTABLE!!!** – this includes foul language, name-calling, and comments of a sexual nature directed towards another person.

### 3. BE RESPONSIBLE

- Be sure to take notes when necessary. Make sure homework is completed and handed in on time.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get missed assignments, notes or handouts. Please check with two classmates before asking me about what you missed. Homework assignments and test/quiz dates are written on the board in the front of the room.
- You must arrive to class on time. When the bell rings, you should be in your seat. If you are late, a pass is necessary for you to enter (unless there are unusual circumstances). If you come to class late three times without a pass, you will be written up and will receive a detention.

### 4. PARTICIPATE

- Please take part in classroom activities-ask questions, add to the discussion, etc. You will be asked to work in cooperative teams, lead discussions, and perform lab experiments. Many class periods will be designed around discussing the chapter content at length, and it is expected that you are able to contribute to our discussions. Thus, be sure that you read each chapter and understand the concepts.
- Please ask when you have questions or schedule a time to come see me for extra help if needed. Learning is more fun when you take part!

## CONSEQUENCES

1. Verbal warning
2. Meeting with teacher and phone call to parent/guardian
3. After-school detention with teacher in room 602
4. Disciplinary write-up and school detention

## GRADING SYSTEM

<u>AREA</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF GRADE</u>
Tests	60%
Quizzes	25%
Labs and Projects	15%
Homework	0%

## GRADING CONTINUED

I highly encourage all students to keep track of their grades and check the online grade book weekly. If there are questions or problems, please ask me!! Grading is according to school policies. Grades that are .5 or higher will be rounded up. Cheating on any evaluation will not be tolerated and will result in referral to the school ethics board.

## Lab Policy

We will have several labs throughout the semester. These hands-on activities are a fun way to explore the material we learn about in class! Students will be given a pre-lab activity to complete the night before lab exercises. Generally, you will be working in groups of 3 or 4 during labs. You are expected to work together to acquire data, but **may not** work together in answering the post lab questions. Post-lab questions or reports are due the next class day. In most cases, late work must be turned in within five days of the due date, or it will not be counted for credit.

## ASSESSMENT RATIONALE

In this course, assessment will occur on a regular basis and will be used to both promote learning and determine whether or not learning objectives have been met. To meet these goals, both formal and informal diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments will be used.

**Grades** will be used to report what students have learned and can do and will be composed of exams (60%), summative quizzes (25%), labs and projects (15%). Therefore, while many assessments may appear in the online grade book, only summative assessments will be used in the calculation of course grades.

**Formative assessment** will occur frequently throughout units and will be used primarily to determine how well students understand the course material. In order to promote learning, students will receive timely feedback with suggestions for improvement. Because formative assessments are used as a “check-in” during the learning process, they will not be included in the marking period or final course grades. Some formative assessments may be scored and included in the grade book, but will not be used in the calculation of a grade. Formative assessments may include projects/products, lab activities, oral questioning, journals, reflections, quizzes, tickets-out-the-door, partner work, etc.

**Summative assessment** will be used to determine if students have met learning objectives. These assessments may happen during or after a unit, will be graded, and will be used to determine a course grade. Summative assessments may include quizzes, unit exams, projects/products, and lab activities when those lab activities are being used to demonstrate skills that should have been learned earlier in the course.

## QUIZ CORRECTIONS

Quiz corrections will be recommended for any student achieving a score below 85% on a quiz. Upon **successful** completion of the quiz corrections, students will be given a completion grade, which will be entered in the **homework** category. Students will have two days to complete the quiz corrections.

## RETEST POLICY

Students will be given the opportunity to retake each summative assessment at least once, however, no more than two reassessment opportunities will be provided per assessment. Students achieving higher than an 85% will not be eligible for a reassessment, and students taking a reassessment cannot receive a grade higher than 85%. In order to be eligible for reassessment, students must follow the guidelines set forth in our reassessment plan, which include but are not limited to, completing all assignments, test corrections, quiz corrections, and obtaining additional help from a teacher or peer tutor. Once all requirements have been met, the student will take an alternative assessment outside of the class period.

## HOMEWORK

Each student is responsible for completing **ALL** assigned work. While homework is not included in your academic grade, the failure to complete work will be reflected in your Habits of Learning grade and you will be held accountable for completing homework assignments. Students who habitually miss homework assignments will be referred to the after school Academic Accountability program and will use this time to complete homework assignments.

Students who are missing homework assignments will not be eligible for a “bump up” at the end of the marking period or semester. Homework will appear in the grade book, but will count for 0% of your course grade. The purpose of including this in the grade book is so that you and your parents have a record of what work has been completed. A grade of 1/1 means that the homework has been turned in and a 0/1 means that the homework has not been completed. **You may also see the following marks in the gradebook for communication purposes only:** Y= assignment complete, on time, and mostly correct; L= assignment was completed late; R= assignment was complete and on time, but needed corrections; N= assignment was not done.

## ACADEMIC BIOLOGY - COURSE COVERAGE

1. Scientific Method and Characteristics of Life
2. Biochemistry and Enzymes
3. Cells
4. Photosynthesis and Respiration
5. Homeostasis and Cell Transport
6. Cell Division
7. DNA, RNA, and Protein Synthesis
8. Genetics
9. Evolution

Major Course Exams:

Final Exam = 20% of course grade

\*Each marking period will count as 40% of the course grade

**I am available for help or to answer questions. If you do not understand something, please ask!!!**

**Have a Great Year!!!**

