



# Thurgood Marshall High School

*Home of the Mighty Buffs*



## Biology Course Syllabus 2020 – 2021

Instructor: C. Clayton

Room: F112

Conference: 5<sup>th</sup> Period

(9-10 a.m. T/ F; 12-12:30 p.m. W)

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Tutorials: Tuesday 1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

### Welcome!

Hello Young Scientists! Welcome to the wonderful world of Biology! I will be your instructor this year and I am very excited about meeting each and every one of you. My mission as your teacher is to lead you all to encounter experiences and knowledge that will broaden your mind about the world of Biology.

### Course Overview

In Pre-AP Biology, students conduct field and laboratory investigations, use scientific methods during investigations and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving on various biological topics. This is a faster-paced, more challenging course than would be offered in general biology. It is designed to guide students in the investigation of all aspects of living organisms and prepare students for the Advanced Placement Biology course students may decide to take junior or senior year.

Students will be taking the **Biology STAAR exam** at the end of this school year in May. This is a **REQUIRED** state exam and is necessary for graduation from high school.

### Schoology & Microsoft TEAMS

Microsoft TEAMS is where students will go for their synchronous class session. Schoology is where students will complete all assignments for this course. This site will have the class units, discussions, PowerPoint presentations, assignments, and other resources for this class. You can access Schoology and TEAMS via 1-Link.

### Required Texts

***Texas Biology, HMH***

This textbook is available online. You will access the textbook through Clever on 1-Link.

### Required Materials

(needed for online instruction as well)

- Composition book (**w/ at least 100 pages**)
- Black or blue ink pens
- Pencils
- Glue sticks
- Colored pens, pencils, or markers

### Highly Suggested Materials

- Safety goggles
- Scissors
- A pocket folder w/ Loose-leaf paper (college or wide-ruled)
- Index cards (vocabulary flash cards)

### Grading

Daily Grades (classwork, homework, quizzes)

50%

Major Grades (labs, tests, projects)

50%

## Course Outline (bolded TEKS will be tested on the Biology STAAR exam)

Grading Period	TEKS Covered	Unit Name
Grading Period 1	1a, 1b, 2a 2b, 2c, 2d, <b>2e</b> , 2f, 2g, <b>2h</b> , 3a-f	Lab Safety and Scientific Process
	4a, <b>4b</b> , 5b, <b>9a</b> , 9c, 9d, 10c	Biomolecules and Cells
	<b>4b</b> , <b>9a</b> , 9b	Energy Conversions in Cells
Grading Period 2	<b>6a</b> , 6b, <b>6c</b> , 6d, <b>6e</b> , <b>9a</b> , 9c, <b>5a</b>	Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis
	<b>5a</b> , 5c, 5d, 6g	Cell Cycle
	3d, <b>6a</b> , <b>6e</b> , <b>6f</b> , 6h, <b>9a</b>	Genetics
Grading Period 3	3a, <b>7a</b> , 7b, 7c, 7d, <b>7e</b> , 7f, 7g, 9d, 12b	Evolution
	8a, <b>8b</b> , 8c	Classification
	11b, 11c, <b>11d</b> , <b>12a</b> , 12b, 12c, 12d, 12e, <b>12f</b>	Ecology
Grading Period 4	5b, <b>10b</b> , 10c	Processes in Plants
	5b, 9c, <b>10a</b> , 10c, 11a	Processes in Animals

### Classroom Procedures

- **DO NOW:** As soon as students enter the room they are to complete their DO NOW exercise. This is a **TIMED** assignment and can be worth a daily grade.
- **Tardies: Online:** Students are tardy if they have not logged on to the class when the class starts.  
**In Person: Tardy is defined as not being seated working on the DO NOW when the bell rings.** Students who are tardy to class must sign in at the tardy station. Parents will be notified after the 2<sup>nd</sup> tardy. After 4 or more tardies, the student may be given detention and/ or referred to an administrator. Tardies can also negatively affect the student's participation grade on the TIMED DO NOW at the beginning of the class.
- **Absences:** Absent students have **3 days to receive and return** make-up work to the teacher after they have returned to school. **Students must have an excused absence in order to receive make-up work. Missed work can also be accessed through Schoology.**
- **Late Work:** Late work will be accepted with a 10% reduction in grade for each day the assignment is late up to 5 days. After 5 days, the assignment will no longer be accepted and the student will receive a "0" for the assignment.
- **Make-up Work:** Make-up work is only given to students who have **EXCUSED absences ONLY!** **Make-up work is not for students who chose not to turn in assignments.** Make-up work is **NOT** to be discussed during class time but after school or students may access the assignments needed through Schoology.
- **The Science Lab:** Students can **ONLY** participate in the science lab if they have returned a **signed safety contract** and have received a **100% on their safety exam.** Students cannot participate in laboratory until these requirements are met.
- **Restroom Procedure:** I encourage students to go to the restroom BEFORE class. If it is an emergency, students will be allowed to go to the restroom but **not during the first and last 10 minutes of class.**
- **Tutorials:** Biology tutorials are on Tuesdays from 1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. on Microsoft Teams (link will be provided).
- **Detention:** If a student is assigned detention, they must attend the detention on Tuesday afternoon in my classroom.
- **Cell Phone Policy:** Cell phones are used in the classroom for instructional purposes often. However, **CELL PHONES CAN ONLY BE USED WITH THE TEACHER'S PERMISSION.** Lack of responsible use of cell phones will result in consequences as stated by the district cell phone policy.

### Online Expectations:

- ✓ Be present.
- ✓ Be attentive.
- ✓ Be on time.
- ✓ Be camera ready.
- ✓ Be prepared to learn.

### General Classroom Rules

- **BE RESPECTFUL** to your teacher, your peers, yourself, and the classroom property.
- **BE PREPARED AND ON TIME** with your materials for this class **EVERYDAY.**
- **NO FOOD OR DRINKS** are to be eaten in the classroom.
- **ELECTRONIC DEVICES CAN ONLY BE USED WITH PERMISSION.**

### Consequences

- Verbal Warning (one time only)
- Calls to parents and/or parent conference
- Detention; referral to administrator