

# Dulles High School

## PreAP Biology Syllabus

**Teacher:** Mrs. Katherine Cox

**E-mail:** katherine.cox@fortbendisd.com

**Conference time:** 6<sup>th</sup> period (1:00 – 1:50 p.m.)

**Textbook:** Nowicki, Stephen. (2015). *Texas Biology*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. (online access [my.hrw.com](http://my.hrw.com))

### **Purpose of Course:**

Biology is the study of **life**. The course includes the study of the structure and function of living organisms, energy conversions, comparative survey of life processes, diversity of life, and the interdependence of organisms and their environment. Investigations emphasize process skill development and safe use of laboratory equipment and materials in the field and laboratory. The purpose of this course is to present biology content within a pattern of unifying themes that helps students understand the larger significance of the details they are learning. Students will be asked to think critically about concepts and relate them to the world in which they live.

### **Grading Procedures:**

Assessment in this course will be determined from a variety of activities. For each term, the grade will be determined as specified below. Student in the graduating class of 2019 and later are on the new GPA scale. Each point matters for the student's GPA and class rank. Parents, this may differ from what you are used to: an 80 and 89 do NOT carry the same value anymore.

Major Grades: 50%

Tests, Major Labs and Projects

Daily Grades: 50%

Quizzes, Labs, Daily activities, Homework

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

F = <70

### **Academic Integrity:**

Any form of cheating, including (but not limited to) plagiarism, copying, forgery, and falsification will not be tolerated in this course. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for that assignment and a parent/guardian will be notified. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with school policy.

### **Classroom Assignments / Worksheets:**

Classroom assignments, along with due dates, will be written on the board each day. It is the student's responsibility to write down each assignment, complete it, and submit it on the due date. Homework assignments are due at the **BEGINNING** of class on the due date. Assignments submitted later in the class period or later in the day are considered late. Mrs. Cox has a "Remind" account that will alert you to quizzes and tests the day before. This is not a guarantee, and students should also write down all dates and/or check the website. My Remind joining code is [rmd.at/papcoxbio](https://www.remind101.com/join/rmd.at/papcoxbio) or [text @papcoxbio to 81010](https://www.remind101.com/join/text@papcoxbio). I encourage parents to join too if you like.

### **Late Work:**

Daily work will be accepted 1 day late with a 30 point deduction. Major grade projects will be accepted up to 3 days late, for 10 points off each day late. On the fourth day, the assignment will be a zero.

### **Tutoring:**

It is highly recommended that students having difficulty in this class take advantage of these smaller group/individual opportunities to get help and show an initiative in bringing up poor grades. **For morning tutorials, students must have a pass written by the teacher or parent to enter the D-wing.**

**AM tutorials** Wednesday 6:50-7:20 with a pass

**PM tutorials** Monday 2:50-3:20

### **Role Of The Parents/Guardians:**

Parents/Guardians fill a very important role in their student's education. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to participate in their student's learning by checking for assignments and test dates online and checking students in projects or homework. You may want to be taking a step back to let your child take more responsibility, but I

encourage you to check in on them often. 9<sup>th</sup> grade is a big transition, and students need gradual increase in responsibility rather than a complete take-over. Please check Skyward for grade updates. I will get back with you within 24 hours if you email me with concerns during the work week.

### **Absences:**

If an absence is anticipated, please notify the teacher early enough to receive assignments ahead of time. If the absence is not anticipated, it is the student's responsibility to gather the assignments that you missed on the day of your return. Students have 1 day for each day absent to make up the work and turn it in. It is the student's responsibility to come and ask the teacher what he/she missed while absent. It is not the teacher's responsibility to make a student do his or her work. **If a student is absent the day of a test or quiz, it must be made up during the next class period.** In the case of extended absences, arrangements will be made between the teacher and the student.

### **Tests:**

Tests will be announced at least 4 days before the test. Test reviews will be passed out 2 days before the test is given and posted on the website. Students are highly encouraged to complete the review to reinforce learning AND it will be worth bonus points on the test. Any student absent the day before the test will still take the test on the original day. Any student absent the day of the test is expected to take the test the day they return.

### **Test Retakes:**

Students may retest if they score a **74 or below**. A retest date will be scheduled, and it may be taken before school at 6:50 am or after school at 2:50 p.m. The retest may be administered by a different teacher. The guidelines for the retest are:

1. Students must participate in a minimum of 30 minutes of tutorials in order to correct their original test and ask any questions they may have regarding the material. It is the student's responsibility to sign in and sign out to document tutorial attendance.
2. Tutorial must be completed **before** the first date of the retest.
3. The new grade will be the higher of the two test scores up to a 75%.
4. Quizzes, final exams, and other major project grades may **not** be retaken or repeated.
5. Students must not have cheated on or chosen not to take the original test.
6. All retesting must be completed by the end of the term.

### **Online Textbook Access:**

The Biology eTextbook can be accessed from the internet. You will see pages just like a regular textbook, and there are great interactive resources available to all students. To gain access, follow these steps:

1. Go to [my.hrw.com](http://my.hrw.com). Click Register.
2. You should already have a username and password created for you.  
User Name: FBISD + 6-digit ID# (ex. FBISD123456)  
Password: FBISD + 6-digit ID# (ex. FBISD123456)

If you would like a hard copy text book, please see Mrs. Padgett in D-wing office to have one issued to you.

### **Course Website Access:**

The external course website can be accessed by visiting [www.fortbendisid.com/dhs](http://www.fortbendisid.com/dhs). Click on Academics, Departments and Courses, and then click on Science. Under "Biology PreAP" click on Cox. As a student or parent of student in my class, you will access materials in Schoology. There is a link to Schoology on the DHS external site.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

Mrs. Cox is very strict on cell phone usage. I RARELY use them in the classroom, so if you wonder if it is OK to have it out, the answer is almost certainly "NO". I will take them up. We are here to learn, not text. Studies show that in classrooms where cell phones are allowed, all students retain less information through the course. Parents, please refrain from texting your children during school hours. Learn their lunch time, and text them then. They use their parents as an excuse to check their phones all the time. During quizzes, tests, and other times when I deem it necessary, cell phone will be placed in numbered pouches to remove distraction and maintain assessment security.

# Dulles High School

## Biology Course Requirements

Students are **required** to keep a binder for this class, or have a designated section of a larger binder for this class. Organizational skills are vital to student success. The binder helps you to organize and to keep up with your notes and assignments. The following page details the binder requirements.

### Required materials:

#2 pencils  
Blue or black pen  
Red pen (or other grading color)  
Eraser  
Lined, 3-hole notebook paper (**white only**)  
3-ring binder with 5 or 8-divider tabs

### Optional materials:

Glue stick  
Scissors  
Colored Pencils  
Highlighter  
Dry Erase Marker  
Facial tissue (an appreciated class donation)  
Liquid hand soap, NOT antibacterial (appreciated)  
Trifold board (donation as an assessment barrier)

### Daily Routines:

1. Bring all materials to class daily. No returning to your locker- you **will** receive a tardy. According to school policy, three tardies equals an absence for exemptions, and detentions will start.
2. Be in your seat and ready to work **before** the tardy bell rings. Begin your daily warm-up assignment when you enter the class.
3. Homework assignments are due at the **BEGINNING** of class the day they are due. They are late after this.

### Classroom Rules: Violations will result in disciplinary action.

1. Show respect for others. No verbal, physical, or body language abuse will be tolerated.
2. Raise your hand to answer or ask questions.
3. Do not talk while others are speaking. Once you finish a test, do not talk while others are testing. Talking while others are testing may be perceived as cheating and is just inconsiderate.
4. No gum, food, or drink allowed in the classroom/laboratory. This is a safety issue and any violations may count against your safety grade and may lead to a discipline referral.

### Tips to be successful in Biology:

1. Turn in work on time. Late work and missing work hurts your grades severely.
2. Come to tutorials as needed. Use power hour to study!
3. Check your work. In group work, work together, rather than dividing the work. You are responsible for learning 100% of it, not just the 25% that you "claimed".
4. Act appropriately in class.
5. Have a positive attitude, and try something new to study if it is not working!
6. Be prepared to learn daily, and study a little bit each night- 10 minute re-read!
7. Take *additional* notes in the margins! Draw pictures and label diagrams.
8. **Take responsibility for your education.**

## Biology Binder Information

1. Your binder for Biology should be a 3-ring binder. You may share a binder with another class as long as you have the five dividers for Biology.
2. On the front cover it should be **clearly** labeled with:
  - First and Last Name
  - Biology
  - Teacher's Name
  - Period
  - Room Number (D110)
3. You will need 5-8 divider tabs in your binder. Each divider shall be named as follows:
  1. General Information: This section includes the syllabus and other reference documents that you will keep in the binder throughout the year.
  2. Warm-ups: This section will contain your daily warm-up questions and answers. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to ask another student (or me, before or after school) for the missed question. Each day, students will write down the date, question, and answer. **Periodically there will be a warm-up quiz.**
  3. Notes: This section includes any notes that are distributed or taken in class.
  4. Classroom assignments and homework: This section will include homework and classroom assignments.
  5. Labs: This section will include any labs or activities done in class.
  6. Test Reviews, Quizzes, and Tests: This section includes study guide review sheets for tests, and any quizzes and tests.
  7. Current Events: you will read and discuss a current event once a week.
  8. Reading Resources: This section includes outside reading resources.

(If you only have 5 dividers, combine #4, 5, 7, and 8 into Binder tab #4)

5. **To assure success, assignments should be present, complete, and in order!**

# Biology Syllabus and Course Requirements Acknowledgment Page 2019-2020

## STUDENTS (please initial each statement):

\_\_\_\_\_ I have carefully read and understand these course requirements for Mrs. Cox's Biology class.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of when tutorial sessions are available to me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of the test retake policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of the late work policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of the academic integrity policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of the cell phone policy.

Join my Remind: [rmd.at/papcoxbio](https://www.remind.com/join/rmd.at/papcoxbio) or [text @papcoxbio](https://www.remind.com/join/text@papcoxbio) to 81010

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Period

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## PARENTS/GUARDIANS (please initial each statement):

\_\_\_\_\_ I have carefully read and understand these course requirements for Mrs. Cox's Biology class.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of when tutorial sessions are available to my child.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of the test retake policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of the late work policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of the academic integrity policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware of the cell phone policy.

Join the Remind if you like: [rmd.at/papcoxbio](https://www.remind.com/join/rmd.at/papcoxbio) or [text @papcoxbio](https://www.remind.com/join/text@papcoxbio) to 81010

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

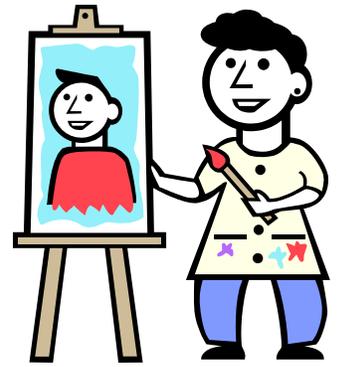
\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Work or Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

*Please fill out backside*

# All About Me!



1. First and last name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. What name do you prefer to be called by your teachers? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you have computer access? \_\_\_\_\_ internet? \_\_\_\_\_ printer? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What language(s) do you speak at home? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is your favorite subject? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is your least favorite subject? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Circle the word that you feel **about yourself** as a student:

EXCELLENT      GOOD      FAIR      POOR

8. Circle the word that you feel **most teachers** perceive you as a student:

EXCELLENT      GOOD      FAIR      POOR

9. Circle the word that you feel **your science teachers** perceive you as a student:

EXCELLENT      GOOD      FAIR      POOR

10. What did you like about your previous science class? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

With what did you struggle? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you ride the bus to school? \_\_\_\_\_ From school? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Are you on any sports teams in school? List the activity and the coach's name. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Are you involved in any fine arts activities at school (band, art, orchestra, dolls, etc.)? List activity and sponsor. \_\_\_\_\_

14. Are you involved in any UIL academic activities (debate, science and math, academic decathlon, etc.) List activity and sponsor's name. \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you have any time consuming activities **unrelated** to Dulles (competitive gymnastics, skating, swimming, ballet, music, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

16. Do you have a job? \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/week? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Is there anything else you would like me to be aware of? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_