August 2017

Dear Students and Parents/ Guardians:

Welcome to MYP Biology! Biology is one of the core sciences that your student will need to help prepare them for the world. The objective of this class is to build a strong scientific background that can be used for your future education and career, as well as introduce you to all areas of science. We will be talking about a vast variety of topics and will be learning these topics through hands-on learning, current events, discussion, and exploration. In order to be successful in this class, students must be responsible for their own actions and work ethic. A successful student will be prepared for class, complete work/ study outside of the class, participate in discussion, and work together in groups

MYP Biology is a course that will involve taking responsibility of one’s own learning. If you see your child is struggling, please feel free to contact me at anytime. Below is a list of class procedures and policies that will be implemented throughout the school year. Please read this letter with the student and make sure they understand the responsibility and materials needed in order to thrive in this class.

**Contact Information:**

Email: [Kellya.schwippert@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:Kellya.schwippert@cms.k12.nc.us)

Class website**:** <http://www.kellyschwippert.weebly.com>

**Classroom Expectations:**

*Be Courteous:* respect all students/ teachers and conduct your behavior with respect

* Listen and follow all directions
* Raise your hand and speak one at a time
* Keep your hands and material to yourself
* Respect all students and material in the room

*Be Prepared and Productive:* come to class with all materials needed and be ready to work the ENTIRE 90 minutes

* Be ready for the warm-up activity BEFORE the bell rings
* Try your best at all times and don’t be afraid to ask questions

*Be Responsible:* be responsible for all materials/ lab equipment, deadlines, and most importantly- be responsible for your actions

**MYP Biology Course Standards and Expectations**

1. ***Using Knowledge***

This objective refers to enabling students to use scientific knowledge (facts, ideas, concepts, processes, laws, principles, models and theories) and to apply it to explain scientific knowledge, solve problems and express scientifically supported judgments. At the end of the course, students should be able to:

* explain scientific knowledge apply scientific knowledge
* understanding to solve problems set in familiar and unfamiliar situations analyze
* evaluate information to make scientifically supported judgments

1. ***Inquiring and Designing***

This objective refers to enabling students to develop intellectual and practical skills through designing, analyzing and performing scientific investigations. While the scientific method may take on a wide variety of approaches, it is the emphasis on experimental work that characterizes MYP scientific inquiry. At the end of the course, students should be able to:

* explain a problem or question to be tested by a scientific investigation
* justify the selection formulate a testable hypothesis
* explain it using scientific reasoning explain how to manipulate the variables
* describe how data will be collected design scientific investigations.

1. ***Processing and Evaluating***

This objective refers to enabling students to collect, process and interpret qualitative and/or quantitative data and explain appropriately reached conclusions. Students are expected to develop analytical thinking skills to evaluate the method and discuss possible improvements or extensions. At the end of the course, students should be able to:

* present collected and transformed data
* interpret data
* explain results using scientific reasoning
* evaluate the validity of a hypothesis based on the outcome of the scientific investigation
* evaluate the validity of the method
* discuss improvements or extensions to the method.

1. ***Reflecting on the Impact of Science***

This objective refers to enabling students to gain a global understanding of science. Reflecting on the impacts of science provides the opportunity to apply a variety of communication modes to demonstrate an understanding of science through evaluating the implications of scientific developments and their applications to a specific problem or issue. Students are expected to become aware of the importance of documenting the work of others when communicating in science. At the end of the course, students should be able to:

* explain the ways in which science is applied and used to address a specific problem or issue
* discuss and evaluate the various implications of the use of science and its application in solving a specific problem or issue
* apply communication modes effectively
* document the work of others and sources of information used.

**Attendance:** If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining the materials from me *before or after* class. There will be an absent folder in the classroom with the student’s name on the material they missed. To receive credit, all material must be turned in **with 5 days** of their return. If a quiz or test was missed, they can come before or after school to make it up. If the students missed more than **10 days** they are required to stay after school for the full 90 minutes to make up class time missed (with an appointment). If the student does not make up time, **the student will receive a failing grade as per CMS attendance policy**

**Late work:** Homework and other work are due at the ***beginning***of class. Late work will be accepted when the absence is excused. Late work will be accepted up to 5 days past the due date at the expense of a lower grade. A 50% will be awarded for any *completed* late work after 5 days. CMS/MPHS honor code will be enforced.

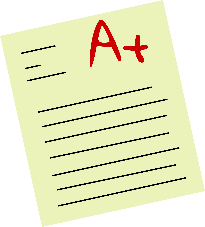
**Bathroom Policy:** To ensure each student is participating, receiving proper instruction in class, and not wondering the halls; bathroom privileges will be restricted (unless otherwise documented by a doctor’s note on file with the school nurse). Students must use the bathroom pass in order to be allowed out of the classroom. Students are expected to use the restroom between class changes.

**Cell Phones:** There will be **no cell phone** use in the classroom unless otherwise noted by the teacher. I am a pro-technology teacher and there will be many times where we will be using cell phones to help us in class…however, if the student is caught with a cell phone at in inappropriate time they must hand in the cell phone to me for the remainder of the class period or administration will be called. MPHS rules apply.

**Testing:** Tests will be given on ­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_at the end of each unit. If the student knows they will be absent (school field trip, family trip, ect.) the student is responsible for making an appointment with me to take the test AHEAD of time.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on formal grades (tests/projects, labs) and Informal grades (quizzes, homework, and class work). There will be a mid-term and a final exam that will be worth a large portion of the student’s grades. Below is the grade distribution according to CMS/MPHS guidelines.

**Q1 or Q3**: Formal 60% | Informal 40% **Q2 or Q4**: Formal 70% | Informal 30%

CMS Course Calculation Grade Scales

Quarter 1/3 40%: A: 90-100

Quarter 2/4 40%: B: 80-89.9

Final Exam: 20% C: 70-70.9

D: 60-69.5

F: 0-59.9

**Tests:** Tests will consist of multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank and short essay. Students should always strive to score 80% or higher on all tests. If a student scores below this, they may complete a Re-looping assignment (usually through Canvas) which will allow them one opportunity to re-test for up to 80%.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be used as an assessment tool throughout the semester. There will be at least one quiz per unit. Pop quizzes may occur without warning.

**Homework-** There will be homework that will be expected to be completed before the beginning of class the following day. It may consist of bookwork, internet assignments, and worksheets. (Please talk to me if internet access is an issue) Half credit may be given for late assignments.

**Current Events:** There will be one required scientific **current event article** **write-up** once a week. Submission will be on Canvas.

**Labs:** A variety of labs will be performed where students are expected to participate and work in groups to complete the assignment and questions. Grades are based on accuracy, participation, and completion. If you miss a lab- you must stay afterschool to complete the lab or the make-up assignment.

**Projects:** Project will be assigned throughout this semester. They may be individual and group based. Projects will be given various values based on the amount of work involved; they are considered formal grades.

**Class Work:** Participation and completion of in-class assignments are important so I can gage whether or not the student comprehends the material. We will also be doing some group work; it is expected that all group members give equal and 100% of their effort.

**Materials Needed: 2 INCH 3-ringed binder** for Biology Handbook, Notes and handouts, **11 dividers,** lined paper, pencil/ pen, highlighters

**Textbook**: The textbook for this course will be available online through Canvas. Students may access Canvas via <http://my.ncedcloud.org>.

**Biology Handbook**: This is a “course packet” given to each student at the cost of $5.00. Students will be assigned homework, practice, and some class notes from this manual. It will be checked and graded periodically.

**Afterschool help-** I will be available for any help after school on most **Tuesdays and Fridays from 2:15 to 3:00** (other arrangements can also be made). Please make sure to make an appointment with me so I can plan to give you my full attention during that time.

Thank you and I look forward to a great semester exploring Biology with your student,

Sincerely,

Ms. Kelly Schwippert

Parents and students should sign up to receive text reminders for upcoming due dates, special announcements, and more!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **MYP Biology** |
| Send text to:  81010 or  (704) 817-2641 | @ cb11bio17 |

Acknowledgement of

Procedures and Expectations

for

Ms. Schwippert’s MYP Biology Classes

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I,

(student’s printed name)

have read the syllabus and instructional procedures outlined for Mrs. Mathis’s MYP Biology class. The expectations for success are clear. I agree to follow the guidelines for behavior as well as all other written and verbal instructions given by the teacher.

SIGNED DATE

(student)

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

As parent/guardian of the above named student, I have read and discussed the syllabus and instructional procedures with the student. The expectations for success are clear. I support and will insist on complete compliance with the rules of behavior for this class.

SIGNED DATE

(parent/guardian)

PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* I am able to provide my child with all the necessary materials for this class.
* I am not able to provide these specific materials for this class: (check all that apply)

\_\_\_ notebook paper \_\_\_ 3 ring binder (2”) \_\_\_1-2 highlighters \_\_\_ $5 for HB

\_\_\_\_ 12 dividers \_\_\_ pens \_\_\_ pencils \_\_\_ colored pencils

*Questions or Comments:*

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*Questions or Comments:*