

# THRS BIOLOGY

## Syllabus; 2018-2019

**Teacher:** Mrs. Anna Murchison

**Textbook:** Miller, K. and J. Levine. (2004). *Biology*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

### **Purpose of Course:**

Biology is the study of life. This high-school credit course includes the study of the structure and function of living organisms, energy transformations, comparative survey of life processes, diversity of life, and the interdependence of organisms and their environment. Investigations emphasize process skill development and safe manipulation 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.

### **Summary of Course Content:**

Nature of Life	Evolution
Ecology	Microorganisms to Plants
Cells and cellular processes	Animals
Genetics	The Human Body

### **Grading Procedures:**

Assessment in this course will be determined from a variety of activities. For each nine weeks, the grade will be determined as specified below. Semester averages are calculated from the first nine weeks (40%), the second nine weeks (40%), and the final exam (20%).

#### Major Grades: 50%

Tests, Major Labs and Projects, Binder

#### Daily Grades:

Quizzes (25%), Minor Labs/Classwork (15%), Homework (10%),

### **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. They may be Warm up activities, Worksheets, Laboratories, or Assigned activities. 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.

### **Late Work:**

Daily work and major grades will be accepted up to 2 days late. 20 points will be deducted the first day it is late. The assignment will become a "zero" if not turned in by the 2nd day late.

### **Absences:**

Students are expected to attend class every day. 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 your responsibility to gather the assignments that you missed on the day of your return. Students have 1 day for each day they are 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 he/she was 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 advisory the next morning. In the case of extended absences, testing arrangements will be made between the teacher and the parent/student.

**Tests:** Tests will be announced at least 4 days before the test. Test reviews will be passed out 4 days before the test is given and posted on the ALMA Calendar. 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 of return during advisory.

### **Test Retakes:**

1. Students may retest if they score a 69 or below on a major grade test and have completed the review by the date of the original test. Two consecutive dates will be made available to take the retest. It may be taken in advisory before school at 7:40 am. 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 occur before the first date of the retest.
3. The completed review sheet must be turned in **before** the original test.
4. The new grade will be the higher of the two test scores, up to a maximum of 80.
5. Quizzes, final exams, and other major grades may **not** be retaken or repeated.
6. Students must not have cheated on, or refused/chosen not to take the original test.
7. All retesting must be completed by the end of the 9 week grading cycle.

2. Students who score between a 79 and a 70 are allowed to retest, but **MUST** come to the teacher and ask to retest. The guidelines for retesting are the same as above. If the student does not come and ask to retest, he/she will receive the grade scored on the original test.

### **Tutorials:**

Tutorial sessions are available to help students better understand information in small group or individual settings. It is highly recommended that students having difficulty in this class take advantage of these opportunities to get help and show an initiative in bringing up poor grades.

**AM tutorials** (7:45 am - 8:20 am): Monday-Friday.

**Anything not covered in this syllabus is subject to the guidelines in the Student Handbook and the teacher's discretion.**

### **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, checking notebooks for assignments, aiding students in projects or homework, and sharing applicable knowledge or expertise with their child. Parents are encouraged to initiate contact with the teacher to track student progress.

**E-mail:** anna.murchison@nkcinc.com

**Conference time:** 1st period (8:30am -9:00 am). Please email me to set up a conference.

## **Biology Course Requirements**

Students are **required** to keep a 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. **Binders will be assessed as a major grade once each nine weeks.** The following page details the binder requirements.

### **Required materials:**

#2 pencils

Blue or black pen

Red pen

Lined, 3-hole notebook paper (**white only**)

3"-ring binder with 8-divider tabs

Highlighter

Eraser

(WE WILL SET UP BINDERS FOR "BIOLOGY" THE 1ST WEEK OF SCHOOL; ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS)

Daily Routines:

1. Bring all materials to class daily. No returning to your locker.
2. Be in your seat and ready to work **before** the tardy time. 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.
4. All assignments must have a complete heading (name, date, period, and assignment title). Failure to write your name on an assignment will result in a 10 point deduction.

Classroom Rules: Violations will result in disciplinary action.

1. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn EVERYDAY
2. Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself
3. Be responsible for your own learning
4. Clean up after yourself and help your peers
5. iPad is utilized in class as a learning tool - NO GAMES
6. HONOR , RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT

Tips to be successful in Biology:

1. Turn in work on time.
2. Study a little every night.
3. Come to tutorials as needed.
4. Check your work.
5. Act appropriately in class.
6. Have a positive attitude.
7. Be prepared to learn daily.
8. Take *additional* notes.
9. **Take responsibility for your education.**

## Biology Binder Information

1. Your binder for Biology should be a 3"-ring binder.
2. On the front cover it should be **clearly** labeled with:  
First and Last Name  
Biology  
Mrs. Murchison  
Period  
Room Number 301
3. You will need eight 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. Reading Resources: This section includes outside reading resources.
  8. Paper: You must use white notebook paper.
5. You will have a binder assessment once every nine weeks. **To assure success, assignments should be present, complete, and in order!**

# Syllabus and Course Requirements Acknowledgment Page BIOLOGY, 2018-2019

**STUDENTS (please initial each statement):**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have carefully read and understand these course requirements for Mrs. Murchison's Biology class. I will honor them at all times. I understand the consequences for not doing so.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Period

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_ I have carefully read and understand these course requirements for Ms. Murchison's Biology class. I will honor them at all times. I understand the consequences for not doing so.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date