

*Pre-IB Biology
and Biology 1*

2017-2018

Syllabus, grading policies, and class rules

Pre-IB Biology

Mr. Baker, Biology Instructor
E-mail: jbaker@volusia.k12.fl.us
Room 15-104

Welcome to biology class! The purpose of this course is to cover material required by the Sunshine State Standards and introduce the IB program of biology. Decide today to do the best that you can do. Following some simple, but strict policies will ensure your success –remember my job is to teach and yours is to learn. I look forward to having a great school year.

Course Requirements

- You are expected to attend class regularly and on time.
- You will maintain a science journal. The journal must be a spiral bound notebook. The majority of assignments, class work, and labs will be maintained in the journal. The journal is designed to improve overall comprehension of course content.
- The textbook for this course is *Holt McDougal Biology*. You are required to have your assigned book in class. In order to enrich or expand the ideas covered in class, reading assignments will be given from the textbook often.

Grading and Absentee Policies

- All assignments, class work, quizzes, and tests are graded with a specific point value. The Volusia County grade scale will be used in determining your letter grade. DeLand High's Grading Guidelines policy will be followed to determine student grades. (The policy was created in conjunction with Volusia County Schools Secondary Grading Guidelines. The document identifies for parents and students the process teachers will follow to determine a performance grade).
- To help students monitor their academic progress, grades will be posted and updated weekly. To maintain anonymity when grades are posted students will be assigned a personalized code number.

Labs

- Depending on the topic being covered, labs may be conducted frequently. Labs will be designed to help you implement, record, analyze, and evaluate your own work in order to determine the validity of your hypothesis. Unsafe behavior in the lab will not be tolerated in any way, as accidents can occur. If a student demonstrates any unsafe behavior, a zero will be given for that lab, and the student will be given a disciplinary referral. *It is the basic responsibility of everyone in the lab to make lab safety an ongoing commitment.*

Assignments / Projects

- There will be a daily bell work assignment. These assignments will pertain to the material being covered in class. This work must reflect your own thinking, and should not be another student's copied work. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and should it occur on any assignment a zero will be given for that grade.
- Group projects are assigned in the units of Life History and Ecology.

Testing

- Unit exams, which usually cover a single topic, will be given at the end of each section covered in class. Some exam questions will mimic the exam questions given by the IB program, and may include material from previous tests. You are encouraged to continuously review previously learned topics.

Class Rules

- Be timely to class and during class
- Be prepared for class
- Be respectful to others at all times

Discipline procedures

- My job is to teach and yours is to learn. No one will be allowed to keep either of us from performing our respective jobs. In the *unlikely* event that class rules are broken, the following disciplinary consequences may be used:
 - Verbal warning
 - Teacher's choice
 - Written assignment
 - Parent contact
 - Referral

Rewards

- Throughout the year, I will give awards and incentives to those students who work hard and demonstrate leadership behaviors.

Class Size Amendment Syllabus Statement

*There are a number of core courses at DeLand High School that are covered by Class Size Amendment. According to this state mandate, class size may not exceed twenty-five students in these classes. To be in compliance with Class Size Amendment, students who are failing at the interim date **may be** subject to removal from this course.*

Verbal Gradebook Statement for Teachers

It is the expectation of administration that teachers of core courses have some Formative Assessments and at least 1 Summative Assessment in their gradebook prior to Interim Reports.

The final portion includes the parent / student signed acknowledgment.

- I have read and understood the student syllabus and will adhere to all components
- Student Signature _____ Parent Initials _____

Biology 1

Mr. Baker Biology Instructor
E-mail: jbaker@volusia.k12.fl.us
Room 15-104

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Course Requirements

- You are expected to attend class regularly and on time.
- You will maintain a science journal. The journal must be a spiral bound notebook. The majority of assignments, class work, and labs will be maintained in the journal. The journal is designed to improve overall comprehension of course content.
- The textbook for this course is Florida Biology by Holt. You will be required at times to have your *assigned* book in class.

Grading and Absentee Policies

- All assignments, class work, quizzes, and tests are graded with a specific point value. Overall grade in class is determined by dividing the total points received by the total points possible. The Volusia County grade scale will be used in determining your letter grade.
- All assignments are due on the scheduled date. However, I will accept some late work. It will depend on the assignment and the circumstances surrounding why it was late. If I accept it late, you will lose half of the points that you would have earned if it had been turned in on time
- School absentee policy: One day for each day absent when an excuse note is presented to the teacher within two days of the students' return. Students who do not present an excuse note are still entitled to the make-up work, but can be penalized. It is the students' responsibility to get the work missed.
- To help students monitor their academic progress, grades will be posted and updated weekly. To maintain anonymity when grades are posted students will be assigned a personalized code number.

Labs

- Depending on the topic being covered, labs may be conducted. Unsafe behavior in the lab will not be tolerated in any way, as accidents can occur. If a student demonstrates any unsafe behavior, a zero will be given for that lab, and the student will be given a disciplinary referral. *It is the basic responsibility of everyone in the lab to make lab safety an ongoing commitment.*

Testing

- Unit exams, which usually cover a single topic, will be given at the end of each section covered in class. The exams will mimic EOC format and may include material from previous tests. You are encouraged to continuously review previously learned topics.

Class Rules

- The following class rules should be followed at all times with no exceptions:
 - Be on timely to class and during class
 - Be prepared for class
 - Be respectful to others at all times

Discipline procedures

- In the *unlikely* event that class rules are broken, the following disciplinary consequences may be used:
 - Verbal warning
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Acknowledgement

- I have read and understood the student syllabus and will adhere to all components

Student Signature _____

Parent Initials _____

9th Grade Biology; Unit Overview

Instructor: Mr. Baker

jbaker@volusia.k12.fl.us

Overview: An informed parent is an asset to the classroom. In an effort to keep you informed this paper outlines the major units that your child will be studying in biology. I encourage you to contact me throughout the school year if you have any questions regarding your child's progress.

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to review upon science skills already taught in previous grades. The course places emphasis on scientific analysis, problem solving, and interpretation. My goal is for the students to enjoy science, and to continue the development of scientific concepts.

Units

(Aug 15-Dec 20)

Scientific Process

Macromolecules, Water, and Energy

Cells (Theory, Processes, and Reproduction)

Genetics

(Jan 8- May 30)

Origins of Life

Plants

Human Impact/Ecology

Human Body Systems

Requirements: In addition to book, pencil, and good attendance habits, each child must keep a science journal (spiral notebook). The science journal will be used to keep notes, do homework, and record test/quizzes.

Evaluation of students: Journal, quizzes, tests, homework, and miscellaneous assignments will constitute a student's grade. Hands-on activities, lab handouts, overheads, and an inactive reader workbook will supplement the textbook. The end of the course (EOC) exam scored by the State of Florida will account for 30% of the final grade.

Acknowledgement: For a more detailed review of my classroom policies and procedures please visit the school website at www.delandhs.org