Biology Syllabus  
Mrs. Comas

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Welcome to Biology! The study of life is an exciting and intriguing look into how plants, animals, and humans interact not only with each other, but within their own systems as well. Below, you will find how the class will be graded, a list of class materials, and some helpful tips to make your year as successful as possible. We’re glad to have you here!

**Grades**:

* Tests: There will be unit tests throughout the year, between two to three per 9 weeks.
* Quizzes: There will be weekly quizzes except during weeks with a Unit test.
* Labs: Each Lab will have accompanying lab questions to answer.
* Projects/Papers: There will be projects throughout the year that will require you to follow a rubric to earn the maximum possible points.
* Homework: Homework will be assigned at various points throughout each unit.

**Late assignments**: Students will receive a 10% deduction per day for all late assignments. After five days, late assignments can be turned into until the end of the unit for half credit. All assignments have to be turned in by the end of the corresponding unit. After unit tests, late assignments will not be accepted.

**Test Corrections**: In order to receive full credit for test corrections, you need to state the incorrect response and explain why you got the question wrong. You also need to state the correct response and explain why that answer choice is right. Students will get one period in class to do test corrections. If they don’t finish them in class, they’ll have to finish them during resource, study halls, before school, homeroom, or after school. Test corrections are due by the next unit test.

**Classroom rules**:

**Respect** – Be respectful to each other and teacher.

**Responsibility** – Come to class on time (in seat with sheet when the bell rings), prepared, and ready to learn.

**Integrity** – Do the right thing even when no one is looking!

**Consequences**

1. Warning

2. Conference with Teacher

3. Communication with parents

4. Detention

5. Office Referral

**Warm Ups**  - Each day you will complete a warm up in the beginning of class. Warm ups are a point each day and have to be completed during the first two minutes of class.

**Phone/Laptop Policy** – If I have to talk to you about putting your phone or laptop away, you will lose your warm up point. If I have to talk to you again in the same class period, I will call home. If this continues, you will receive detentions.

**Hall Pass** -Being in class is very important. If you must go to the bathroom, do so at the beginning or end of the period. If you are abusing the pass, then you will not be allowed to go anymore. You must sign out before leaving the room.

**Lab**: During labs, additional precautions must be taken.  
  
1. Long hair must be tied back at all times.  
3. Loose fitting sleeves must be rolled up at all times.  
4. Any misuse of equipment or horseplay is cause for an automatic zero for the lab. This is in addition to North Allegheny School District’s Discipline Policy.

**Quizzes and Tests**: Each quiz/test will follow the accompanying set of rules:

1. There is no talking while taking a quiz or test. Talking is considered cheating.
2. If you are caught cheating, your quiz or test grade will automatically be a zero for the quiz.
3. Sometimes you will take the quiz or test on your laptop.

**Materials needed daily for class**:

* Binder for Biology only – Recommend having 10 dividers for Units 1-10
* Pencil
* HIghlighter

**Helpful tips to succeed**:

* This course will be a step up in difficulty from previous science courses. It is important that you review your notes every night for about 20 min. to make sure you understand the information. This will prevent you from cramming the night before a test and struggling.
* The projects will take up the majority of your class time, and may require you to finish them at home. Make sure you manage your time properly.
* If you are confused by anything we are doing, ask ASAP! Each new unit builds on the previous ones. We can schedule a time to meet to go over the material if necessary.
* If you have any questions after leaving my class on any day, you may email me through the North Allegheny email system. Our emails: [jcomas@northallegheny.org](mailto:jcomas@northallegheny.org) [jgrace@northallegheny.org](mailto:jgrace@northallegheny.org)
* Be sure to familiarise yourself with Blackboard! Assignments and notes will be posted there if you ever need an extra copy. It’s also a good place to go if you are absent to see what you missed for the day.

* Have your parents email me so that they receive Bio Blasts each week and know what is going on in class.

* Remember the state will be testing Biology through the Keystone Exams. You must pass the exam in order to graduate!

With all that being said…

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR! YOU WILL ALL SUCCEED!