**BIOLOGY**

Mrs. Ann-Marie Spoonamore - Room 149– 381-3423 – annmarie.spoonamore@fayette.kyschools.us

**Course Information**

Biology is the study of life and its processes. This course will be a basic introduction to life on Earth and living systems. Emphasis will be placed on a biochemical approach to life processes. Students will develop and improve scientific process skills, laboratory techniques, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms.

**Absences and Tardies**

The absentee policy for the Fayette County schools will be in effect. Absences must be excused through the Attendance Office and work must be made up in the time allotted by FCPS policy. Consult your student handbook for further information.

**Supplies-All are expected to be in class everyday**

* Red, Green, Blue, and Black Ink pens (optional)
  + Can be found as a 4-in-1 pen at most stores
* (1) 1.5” 3-ring Binder
* 1 pack of 5-Tab Binder Dividers
  + Divider Labels: **Bell Ringers, Notes, Graded Work/Labs, Handouts, Reviews**
* Loose-Leaf College Ruled Paper (will be stored in the back of your binder to complete reviews and various assignments)
* Pencil

**Grading**

Grade Scale school wide is as follows:

A: 92-100

B: 83-91

C: 74-82

D: 65-73

F: 0-64

**Unit Tests- 40%**

* Tests will not be curved
* Review will be given on the day prior to the test and turned in to receive any credit for the test

***First* Semester Final- 20%**

* Proper review will be given for the final
* Final exam will be comprehensive
* Only applies to FIRST semester

**State Mandated, standardized, end-of-course exam (Second Semester) - 20%**

* Only applies to SECOND semester and is cumulative for the whole school year

**Lab Activities, Class Activities, Bell Ringers, Projects, Papers, Homework- 40%**

* No late papers, homework, projects, or out-of-class activities will be accepted unless an excused absence is presented
* Textbook and other readings are mandatory
* You will be graded on your participation in labs along with lab reports
* Notes are also mandatory and will be checked periodically for a grade to ensure student participation in note-taking
* Any work to be turned in must be labeled with your name and be written in blue or black ink or pencil. Work that does not meet these requirements will receive no credit.

**Academic Integrity**

You should abide by the Henry Clay High School honor code while conducting your work in this course. This policy is found in the student handbook, and all students are responsible for becoming familiar with this policy.

* The work you submit in this class should be your own, unless *specifically* identified as group work
* You are not allowed to bring notes to an exam, copy off of another student’s exam, or claim another students work as your own
* When conducting group or individual projects or papers, give clear reference for all of your sources. **Work that has been plagiarized will receive a zero.**
* You should never have your cell phone out, but if I catch you with a cell phone during an exam, **I will assume you are cheating and you will receive a zero on the exam.**

**Classroom Conduct**

You may not interfere with another student’s learning in any way. You are expected to help maintain a collaborative and constructive environment in the classroom. Insults and disparaging comments are not allowed. **NO CELL PHONES!** I will act following the school wide policies regarding cell phones.

**Hints to Success in this Class**

Here are a few suggestions that may help you obtain the grade you seek:

* Studying is an active process so I would advise you to study what we covered in class each night. This will allow you to process the information in order to have better recall on all unit exams.
* When you review your notes, try to re-write them from memory instead of simply recopying them. Make use of flash cards. Actively making the flash cards will help you learn the material better than passively reviewing them. Take advantage of chalkboards and whiteboards to outline the material.
* Focus on finding out what you do not know. It will be most helpful to you to find the boundaries of your knowledge prior to the exam.
* If you have questions, please seek help proactively. I am here to help you succeed. But remember, **bad planning on your part does NOT constitute an emergency on mine!**

Below is a tentative outline of topics that will be covered over the course throughout the year. We are going to have a great year!

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| --- | --- |
| **Unit Number** | **Topic** |
| 1 | Introduction- The Science of Life |
| 2 | Biochemistry- Matter, Energy, and Life |
| 3 | Cells- A View of the Cell |
| 4 | Photosynthesis and Respiration- Energy and Life |
| 5 | DNA, RNA, and Protein Synthesis |
| 6 | Cell Cycle- Chromosomes, Meiosis, and Mitosis |
| 7 | Genetics- Mendelian Genetics and Heredity |
| 8 | Evolution |
| 9 | Ecology |
| 10 | Population Growth- Biodiversity, Extinction, |
| 11 | Classification |

**Class website:** [**www.henryclayspoonamore.weebly.com**](http://www.henryclayspoonamore.weebly.com)

***Remind: To receive class updates through a text message, please text the number 81010 with the message @hcadvbio if you are in Advanced Biology OR @hcgenbio if you are in General Biology.***

**BEHAVIORAL SYLLABUS**

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Students in my classes are expected to adhere to the following standards of behavior:

1. Students will be prepared to work with all needed materials on hand and ready to use. Students will have all homework completed prior to class.
2. Students are expected to abide by the Henry Clay High School policies for being tardy and skipping class.
3. Students will be notified well in advance of assignments, labs, and test. A section of the whiteboard will be reserved for this use.
4. If a student is absent from class, the teacher will label assignments with the absent student’s name, hour, and date of the assignment. If the absence is excused the student will receive assignments to make-up. Only assignments labeled by the teacher will be accepted late.
5. Except in the case of an excused absence, NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED LATE.
6. Review will be given on the day prior to the test and must be completed and turned in in order to receive any credit for the test. Final exam will be comprehensive. If the student has an excused absence on the test day then the student will be required to take the exam either before or after school upon coordinating with me. Tests will be announced well in advance, if you are absent only the day prior to the test you will be required to take the test as scheduled. The student would have had time to receive the test review from me prior to the student’s absence.
7. All student work must be written in blue or black ink or pencil. Any assignment written in a different color will receive a zero. If an assignment is turned in without a name, the student will receive a zero in the grade book until the assignment is claimed.
8. Students will keep hats, cell phones, headphones and other electronic devices in his/her backpack, purse, or pocket while in the classroom. Any hat or electronic device visible in the classroom will be confiscated and turned in to the main officer per HCHS Electronic Device Policy.
9. Students will stay in their assigned seats until dismissed by the teacher. Students will not line up at the door prior to being excused.
10. All policies of Henry Clay High School and Fayette County Public Schools will be enforced.

**Parents will be notified periodically of upcoming assignments and exams through the Infinite Campus Messenger system. Parents- If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail or call me! I can be reached from 7:45-8:15 or any time after 2:15.**

**DUE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| ­­­  Student Name (Please Print) | Parent Signature |
| Student Signature | Parent E-Mail (Please Print) |