

Biology AA Syllabus, 2025-26
Universal Trailblazers
Mrs. Rosalyn Butts, Instructor



Biology is a survey course that provides a general understanding of all living things. This class satisfies the Ohio Department of Education graduation life science credit requirement and is necessary for graduation. In the spring, all Biology students will take the State End of Course exam. The following information is important for your success in this class. You will need to keep this syllabus in a safe place and refer to this if you have questions.

Planner

A planner will be provided to you by the district. Students are strongly advised to record their due dates for all assignments in the planner. If you choose not to utilize the planner, it is important that you develop a system to keep you on time and on track.

Supplies

Everyday, you are required to bring the following: 1) composition (not a spiral) notebook, 2) pen (black or blue) or pencil, and your 3) computer and 4) charger. Colored pencils and glue sticks are also good for students to have with them. A very limited supply is available in the classroom. Students will also benefit from having wired earbuds or headphones so they may take advantage of the audio version of the textbook and required videos/presentations.

Attendance

Students are expected to be at school every day for the entire day. The school day will be 8:50 am - 3:50 pm. Attendance will be taken and recorded in Focus daily.

Grading Policy

Teacher created assignments may take several forms. Some may be a manipulative of some sort; others may be work posted within McGraw Hill or Canvas. Many assignments will be graded for completion with the ability to make corrections. Assignments that will be graded for accuracy will be announced in class. Science work can come in the form of classwork, homework, CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) prompts, labs, projects, quizzes, tests.

Class grades will consist of formative assessments (minor), summative assessments (major), and participation. Formative assessments are assignments that help you grow your understanding of a concept. These assessments also help me understand where you are in your learning and how best to help you. These assessments include but are not limited to classwork, homework, exit tickets, probes. These assignments are designed as practice and **will not** be accepted late since we will often make corrections in class after the assignment has been checked for completion. In other words, all work must be attempted with fidelity.

Summative assessments are assignments that will prove what you have learned of a topic. These assessments are most often given at the end of a topic or midpoint or end of a unit. Summative assessments include tests, quizzes, final drafts of CERs, projects, and lab reports. These assessments can be corrected for improved scores.

Participation points are often given for on time attendance and full participation in the lesson. These points may also be attached to bell ringers given at the beginning of the class.

The class grades will be weighted. Formative assessments will count for 30% of the class grade while summative assessments will account for 50% of the total class grade. The remaining 20% will account for class participation and attendance.

Your final grade will be determined by the following scale:

A = 100%-90%; B = 89%-80%; C = 79%-70%; D = 69%-60%; F = 59%-50%

Checklists

You will receive a checklist that will be your roadmap to success. On the checklist, you will find the NGSS standards, objective(s) of learning, assignments, and assessments. It is important to use your checklist to record the due dates in your planner. The due dates will creep up on you if you don't keep track of them.

Curriculum

In a Montessori classroom, much of the learning occurs in multi-age class groups. This allows students the rich opportunity to work with and learn from each other in a supportive environment. Cincinnati Public Schools has adopted the Inspire curriculum by McGraw Hill. The curriculum is primarily online and can be accessed through Clever. Consult the chart below for the order of modules in the curriculum.

Quarter	Science	Modules
1	The Study of Life; Principles of Ecology; The Cell	1-9
2	The Cell (cont.); Genetics; History of Biological Diversity	10-16
3	History of Biological Diversity; Diversity of Life	17-21
4	Diversity of Life; The Human Body	22-27

Late Work

Work designed for practice (see above) will not be accepted late. It is imperative that you utilize your checklist and/or planner as well as Canvas and make the appropriate arrangements. If you are absent for an assessment, you will have the number of days you were absent to make up the summative assessment.

Absences

It is important that you attend school every day. However, if you are absent, you will need to email me ahead of time, if possible. **You are still responsible for work that was given during your absence**, so please refer to your checklist and check Canvas for any upcoming due dates and plan your time accordingly.

Contact Information

I am easily accessible and will do my best to answer questions and requests quickly. My email address is ButtsRo@cpsboe.k12.oh.us. I can be reached on the classroom phone during non-class hours at 513-363-2678, or by call or text at 513-580-4979.

Classroom / Lab Safety

It is important to maintain a safe environment in which to learn. Therefore, once locker and locks have been distributed, students will not be allowed to bring backpacks and/or large bags into the classroom. A purse is perfectly acceptable. Students will be responsible for securing their belongings in their locker.

Phone and Computer Usage

Students are not to be on their phones at any time in the classroom. Phones should be in their Yondr pouch or District/School designated location. The following consequences for violating the policy is as follows:

- 1st offense* - warning; phone held by teacher until the end of the day
- 2nd offense (and consequent offenses)* - phone given to the office and school procedure followed

Students are expected to bring a charged laptop to class each day. There are limited outlets in the classroom for students to charge their computers. Laptops that are lost or stolen are subject to a replacement charge that will need to be paid in order to receive a high school diploma.

Although there are many temptations, students are expected to stay on approved websites and applications and refrain from computer / internet video games, YouTube, and other non-instruction related sites or apps. Any violation will result in a loss of participation points, and may also result in disciplinary action.

Additional Note

Keep this letter in a safe place, and refer to it as needed.

Dear Parent / Guardian:

Please read the syllabus and sign below and return to school by August 29th.

I have read the syllabus and agree to abide by the policies in this document.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

I have read the syllabus and have discussed the expectations with my student.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Best way to contact me:

Phone _____ Email _____