

**Agriscience/Biology 1 Syllabus**  
**Cumberland Gap High School**  
**Samantha Thompson**

Email: [samantha.pierce@claibornecsd.org](mailto:samantha.pierce@claibornecsd.org)

**\*please note the last name is different\***

Telephone Number: 423-869-9964 ext. 211

Planning 4th block: 11:30 - 1:25

**Introduction:**

Welcome to Agriscience, also known as the first half of Biology 1! I am so excited to have your child in this class and you as a support system for said child! Biology is an important subject that discusses many of the real life processes that we go through and see everyday. I hope to make this a fun and interactive class and can't do that without the support and encouragement from home! With that being said please encourage and support the following expectations, policies, and content that we plan to cover based on the state and board requirements.

**Course Description:**

The goal of this course is to develop an understanding of the relevance of biology as it relates to standards of living, career choices, and current issues in science and technology. This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts of Biology. Concepts discussed in the class include biochemistry, cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, cell processes, diversity of life, and how living things change over time. This course is designed to meet one of the science course requirements for college-bound students.

\*All standards taught can be found at [Tennessee Academic Standards for Science](#).

**Communication:**

When needing to contact me you can reach out via remind, email, or call the school. Remind is an app that students and parents can use to see class announcements, important dates, and ask questions. This is also the best form of communication for reaching me as it notifies me quickly. When reaching out with concerns, know that I will do my best to address your needs quickly and promptly within 24 to 48 hours. To add yourself to 81010 text or download the app to see that the county has added you:

- For 1st block: @ag1st25
- For 2nd block: @ag2nd25
- For 5th block: @ag5th25

\*You may also download the app to see that the county has added you\*

**Materials Needed:**

- 3 Ring Binder or notebook/folder- this is very important and will be part of grading papers that students are required to keep. I suggest a binder for the year
- District given Chromebook and charger
- Composition notebook
- Paper
- Pencils/Pens
- Crayons or colored pencils

## **Classroom Policy/Procedures:**

### **Mrs. Thompson's Classroom Rules**

- 1) ABOVE all else, treat classroom, materials, peers, and teachers with **RESPECT**
- 2) Be in your seat, ready to learn, when the bell rings. You must bring your binder and Chromebook to class each day!
- 3) Bottled water (or water in a resealable container) are allowed in the classroom (but never, not ever) in the lab. **Please keep other food and drinks out for mess purposes.**
- 4) You are expected to visit your locker and restrooms before coming to class. Restroom privileges will be limited (unless you provide me with a note documenting a valid medical excuse). A log of restroom passes will be kept. An intervention may be necessary for students that exceed "normal" frequency and duration of restroom breaks.
- 5) It is important that you follow all directions exactly, and that you listen to all instructions. Failure to follow directions may lead to suspension of laboratory privileges and other disciplinary measures. In order to hear instructions, you must be quiet while I am speaking. You will have plenty of opportunities to express your ideas in class, at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner.
- 6) The state of Tennessee has a **NO CELLPHONE LAW during instructional/class time**. Cell phones must be placed in the designated holder at the beginning of class and remain there until instructed to retrieve them. Students will be assigned a number and be expected to put the devices away when entering the classroom. Failure to do so will result in the consequences explained in the student handbook. Once on school grounds these devices become school property and can be taken and held by school administration if seen fit in accordance with the new law. These devices must be **OFF** and in the hanger during class. *If you wish to understand more, please go to the schools website and access the school hand book which was discussed in class and assemblies the first week of school.*

### **Honor Code and Plagiarism:**

Students are expected to do their own work. **Students who are caught cheating will receive a zero on the assignment and may be subjected to additional disciplinary action.** This applies to both the student copying work **AND** the student from whom they are copying. Plagiarism is the stealing of someone's work and claiming it as your own, which is prohibited and will be addressed in accordance with the school handbook policies.

### **Behavior Expectations**

1. Be respectful to other students, staff and school property
2. Follow Directions at First Request.
3. Remain in the assigned area.
4. Use technology appropriately.
5. Keep Hands and Feet to Self.
6. Use Appropriate Language, Tone, and Volume.
7. Focus on classroom tasks and engage in learning.

## Content:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Module 1: Basics of Life<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Characteristics of life</li><li>b. Biochemistry</li><li>c. Cell structure and function</li></ol></li><li>2. Module 2: Cellular Processes<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Plasma Membrane and Cell Transport</li><li>b. Photosynthesis</li><li>c. Cellular Respiration</li></ol></li><li>3. Module 3: The Central Dogma<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The Cell Cycle</li><li>b. DNA Structure and Function</li><li>c. DNA Replication, Transcription, and Translation (Protein Synthesis)</li></ol></li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Module 4: Heredity<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Meiosis</li><li>b. Asexual and Sexual Reproduction</li><li>c. Mutations and Diseases</li><li>d. Karyotypes</li><li>e. Punnett Squares</li><li>f. Inheritance Patterns</li><li>g. Pedigrees</li><li>h. Biotechnology</li></ol></li><li>5. Module 5: Biodiversity<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Biological Evolution</li><li>b. Natural Selection and Evolution of Populations</li></ol></li><li>6. Module 6: Ecology<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Population Size</li><li>b. Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems</li><li>c. Food Webs</li><li>d. Ecological Pyramids</li><li>e. Succession</li><li>f. Biodiversity and Humans</li></ol></li></ol>
--	--

## Resources

\*Tennessee Miller & Levine Experience Biology. (Eagle Book)

Other resources may be added as supplemental material at any time.

## **Statement concerning the option of alternatives for material deemed objectionable by parent/student.**

\*If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. The request should include your name, the child's name, the specific activity/materials in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection. Please remember that the topics stated above are chosen by the state and your child will be tested on them in the End of Course assessment whether they complete the material or not.

\*Possible resources to enhance content might include:

- Discovery Education
- National Geographic
- Quizizz
- Gimkit
- Biology Corner
- SAVVAS reader
- University of Colorado
- pHet simulations
- YouTube Video Clips
- Amoeba sisters
- Blooket
- Quizlet
- Kahoot

### **Safety Procedures**

Claiborne County Safety Contract – required for ALL lab activities. Lab safety contracts **MUST BE SIGNED** and returned by students and parents/guardians before a student will be admitted to the lab.

### **Assessments and Assignments**

\*Assessments will be based on the curriculum standards (Tennessee Science Standards). These standards will be provided to students at the beginning of each unit and for each lesson, so the information and procedures for which students will be tested will have been provided prior to covering a lesson.

\*Exams will correlate to module topics

\*Weekly (or almost weekly) quizzes on the lesson for **each key topic** will be based on the standards outlined in the curriculum.

\*Daily work will include Daily Bell Ringers, CK-12s, Class Discussions, Notes, Lesson Activities, Labs, Online Activities, Presentations, Models, and Group Projects. We will work on many of our daily assignments for several days before turning them in. **Each of these projects, models, and activities will be stored in their binders for reference when reviewing for EOCs.**

### **Grading Policy/Rubrics**

\*Classroom Grade Percentages

**Homework/Daily Assignments 40%**

**Quizzes 10%**

**Unit Tests 40%**

**Behavior grade 10%**

**\*EOC is added at the end of the semester as 15% of the entire course grade\***

\*\*Not all grades will be based on a 100 scale.

\*\*Your grade will be posted in Aspen. Your child or you need access to this. Reach out to guidance.

\*\*Missing assignments, excused or unexcused, will be entered into the gradebook as a “0”. After the assignment is completed, the “0” will be replaced with the actual grade.

### **Claiborne County Grading Scale**

A - 100 – 90, B - 89-80, C -79-70, D - 69-60, & F - less than 60

### **Homework Policy**

\* Homework is due the day after it is assigned (unless otherwise indicated). Homework not available for grading at the beginning of the class period, unless due to absence the previous day, will receive a **zero grade** with no make-up work accepted for a grade. Homework assignments are designed to help practice the new material that has been covered and as an assessment of student understanding of the new material. Completing an assignment after the due date is ineffective as a learning tool.

### **Make-Up Work Policy/Late Work Policy for Absences**

\*Students are expected (and encouraged) to be in class every day. Biology is a course that builds on previously-covered material, so missing even one day can make learning subsequent materials more difficult. In the best interest of the student, missed homework, quizzes, and tests should be made up the

day after the student returns to school. If the student has missed several days, an individualized plan will be created. Your attendance matters, try your best to be here!

**Extra Credit**

\*Students will be provided with opportunities occasionally to revise assignments or complete alternate assignments to replace unsatisfactory grades.

**Portal Post Policy**

\* My goal is to have tests and quizzes graded and returned within 72 hours after the assessment. All grades will be updated in Aspen once every week to two weeks.

**SYLLABUS AGREEMENT**

***This page needs to be signed and returned while you keep the rest***

Thank you so much for your assistance and cooperation during your child’s educational journey. Please review this syllabus with your child and sign below. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or review the school handbook. Please sign and return this portion. Thank you.

---

“I have reviewed this syllabus with my child and understand the requirements of the course.”

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* The syllabus is subject to change\*\*\*