



# Welcome to Biology!

## 2025-2026 Semester I Syllabus



### Welcome Note

Hello Biology students! I am so excited that I get to be your teacher this year and that we get to explore the content of biology together. This course is one of my all time favorites due to there being so many interesting topics to cover. As high schoolers, you will be held to high standards throughout this course. It will be challenging, interesting, and loads of fun. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you throughout the year! Below you will read about the expectations in the course, please take notes on what you believe is important or anything you have questions on.

### Contact Information

**Email:** bscott@ldisd.net

**Phone:** 940-497-4031

**Conference Period:** 2nd Period, 8:20am-9:05am

**Best Way to Reach Me:** Email is by far the easiest and quickest way to reach me!

### Course Description

The Biology course is designed for students to conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students in Biology will study a variety of topics, including but not limited to ecology, biochemistry, cell structure and function, genetics, evolution, and living systems.

### Class Expectations

- 1) **Safe** - be safe by following classroom and lab procedures
- 2) **Ownership** - take ownership of your actions
- 3) **Attitude** - remain positive by having a good attitude
- 4) **Responsible** - be responsible for your education and surrounding
- 5) **Respectful** - be respectful to yourself and others

### Classroom Supplies

Most of the supplies that you will need for this course will be available in the classroom. **However, you will need to bring a composition notebook.** You can also bring a journal or binder to biology if you prefer to have other ways to stay organized, but it is not required. You will be allowed to store your composition notebooks in our classroom if needed.

## Grading Policy

In compliance with the updated grading policy for 25-26,

**Minor Grades - 60% of grade**

(Class Activities, Labs, Practice Work)

**Major Grades - 40% of grade**

(Exams, Portfolios, Projects)

Please refer to the student handbook for information regarding late work, missed work, and retesting policies.

## Daily Work & Homework

There will be a daily “Do Now” question each day at the beginning of class as well as an exit ticket at the end of each class. Participation is required.

In addition to “do nows”, there will be various daily activities entered into skyward as Minor Grades, which account for 60% of your overall grade. This includes class activities, labs, worksheets, quizzes, homework and any other assignments assigned.

**IMPORTANT: If you happen to turn in late work, you must email me to let me know that you have turned it in.** This is how I will grade it in a timely manner. If you do not email me, I will not be notified that you completed it. This is YOUR responsibility.

## Exams & Projects

Major grades will be a mixture of exams and projects that will be administered during each unit. Exams will consist of 50% multiple choice questions and 50% free response questions. Exams and projects will account for 40% of your overall grade, as per the LDISD grading policy. Exams are NOT open-note.

Open-note exam corrections will be allowed after each exam, but may ONLY be completed during my tutorials (NOT during my class period!). Exams will not be returned to you to keep, and will only be returned for you to review during my tutorials. Your graded exam and corrections will not leave my classroom, and you will not be permitted to use your phone while working on exam corrections. Exam corrections will earn 50% of the missed points back (so, for example, if you earned a raw score of 60 on the test and submit corrections for missed questions, you may earn an amended exam score of 80). There is no minimum or maximum requirement for exam corrections. If you received a raw 95 and want to amend to 97.5-98, you are free to do so. Exam corrections must be completed within 10 days of when the grade is posted in Skyward.

**IMPORTANT: If you miss a scheduled exam, you MUST email me to schedule a time to come in (preferably after school so that you may have your fully allotted 45 minute test time) to make up the exam.**

## Labs

We are very proud of our school. In an effort to maintain safety, lab quality and classroom decorum I will not tolerate horseplay, vandalism, equipment abuse or tampering with emergency equipment. This also includes any tampering with the school's issued iPad. Science equipment or material use is purposefully determined by the teacher and is not allowed outside of the classroom. A fee or full replacement of damaged, broken, or missing equipment may result along with an office referral.

\*\*Any fighting, purposeful harm to a student or inappropriate behavior that causes a safety concern will result in immediate removal from the lab, which results in a referral and possible loss of participation in upcoming labs.

## Academic Dishonesty

Cheating undermines both the cheater and class morale. Avoid doing yourself this disservice: it carries heavy consequences. Please see the Student Handbook to find more information about academic dishonesty.

## Cell Phone, Smart Watches, & AirPods

Per HB1481, use of cell phones and all other personal communication devices are prohibited during the course of the school day. This includes airpods. The district's and state's policy regarding cell phones, smart watches, and airpods will be followed in my classroom.

## Semester I Overview

	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>TEKS</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Unit 1</b>	Ecology: Energy Transfer, Ecological Relationships, Environmental Impacts	11.A, 13.A, 13.B, 13.C, 13.D	Analysis Worksheets, Writing Practice, Research Project, Model Creations
<b>Unit 2</b>	Biochemistry: Biomolecules, Enzymes	5.A, 11.B	Academic Stations, Interactive Labs
<b>Unit 3</b>	Cell Structure & Function: Cell Transport, Organelles	5.B, 5.D	Cellville Project, Case Studies, Hands on Modeling
<b>Unit 4</b>	Cell Cycle & Protein Synthesis: Cell Differentiation, DNA & RNA, Transcription, Translation	6.A, 6.B, 6.C, 7.A, 7.B, 7.C	Scavenger Hunt Stations, Practice Worksheets, Whole Group Practice