



2025-2026 BIOLOGY MRS. DUFFY



CONTACT INFORMATION

Classroom: Room 207 J

Office: 206 K

Lab: 207 K

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Biology is a required science set by the state of North Dakota and West Fargo Public Schools. This course follows the ND Science standards.

Biology explores the science of life, including topics such as cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, and the diversity of living organisms. Students will engage in labs, use the scientific method, and apply biological concepts to real-world situations.

BOOKS – SCHOOLY - POWERSCHOOL

- Biology Textbooks – Class Sets will be available for use in the classroom daily.
 - Students may request to check out a textbook to take home for the year.
- **PowerSchool** – is the official gradebook of WFHS
- **Schoology** – is official Learning Management System (LMS) for WFHS
 - Lesson Plans
 - Assignment Droboxes
 - Weekly & Unit Resource Folders
 - **Expectation:** Students will upload their paper and digital assignments to Schoology.

MATERIALS – REQUIRED & OPTIONAL

- **REQUIRED**
 - School issued iPad, Block & Charging Cord
 - Pen for the iPad
- **OPTIONAL (Highly Suggested)**
 - Notebook, Pencils, Pens, Highlighters, Colored Pencils, Markers
 - All supplies listed will also be available for use in the classroom.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

- #1 – iPads must be charged and ready for use during class.
 - Students should also bring their school issued charging block and cord to use as needed.
- #2 – **NEW** state law -- **Cell phones** need to be put away and out of sight from 8:25 am – 3:35 pm every day.
 - Please review the new ND state law and the policy set forth by WFHS by reading the policy in the student handbook. .

GRADING

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| ▪ 90-100 | A | Quarter Grades are weighted <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30% Formative Assessments• 70% Summative Assessments |
| ▪ 80-89 | B | |
| ▪ 70-79 | C | Semester Grades <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% Q1/Q3 – 50% Q2/Q4 |
| ▪ 60-69 | D | |
| ▪ 59 & below | F | |

ABSENCES

- Any graded assignments missed during an excused absence(s) must be made up.
 - Graded Assignments – A Dropbox will be located in your weekly Schoology folder for any assignments due that week. **Schoology is ALWAYS your “go to” resource for what you missed that day.**
- Planned Absences: It is your responsibility to obtain the work you will miss prior to the day of the absence.

- You are responsible for getting your assignments from Mrs. Duffy before you leave (vacation/field trip/sporting event/all other extra-curricular activities).
- **Check Schoology** to determine if you need to pick up paper copies of the assignment, or schedule time to make up quizzes, tests, or lab that you will be missing. Failure to complete missed work will result in a zero for the assignment. Most assignments will be digital and posted on Schoology for easy access.
- Sickness or Appointments: **Check Schoology** for materials & graded assignments you missed. If you still have questions, you can either talk to, email, or Schoology message Mrs. Duffy with questions or clarification.
- Please refer to the WFHS Student Handbook for more detailed information.

ASSIGNMENTS

Daily Work – Homework – Formative Assessments (30% of your overall quarter grade)

- Daily work time is provided most days in class. Homework is to finish work and study for quizzes and tests.
- All graded assignments for the week are due Sunday at 11:59 PM.
 - Paper and Digital Assignments must be posted to Schoology.
 - Paper Lab Reports will be one of the few assignment exceptions on paper that will be collected in class.
 - The majority of assignments must be uploaded to Schoology.
- **QUIZZES:** Each unit has 2-4 quizzes. Quiz retakes are available. Quiz retakes must be submitted by the end of each unit. Students should sign up during WIN sessions to take quiz retakes.
- Students & Parents please make it a habit to check PowerSchool for the most current grades and missing work.
 - Schoology will show students and parents if assignments have been submitted or not.

Summative Assessments – Labs & Unit Tests (70% of your overall quarter grade)

- All unit tests will consist of multiple-choice questions and a written response section.
- **Tests retakes** must be completed within 1 week (7 days) after the original exam. Retakes will be a different test and must be done during one or more WIN Sessions.
- Labs are a required part of the biology curriculum. If you miss a lab you will have to make it up or do an alternative lab.
- WIN sessions are a great use of the school day to make up quizzes, tests, and finish labs.

Semester Exams – End of Semester 1 and End of Semester 2

- Semester Exams are 100 multiple choice questions covering the units from the semester.
- The final exam will be entered in PowerSchool at the end of quarter 2 and end of quarter 4.

Assignment Due Dates & Late Work Policy

- Students will have weekly due dates for all assignments given within that week.
 - **Weekly Assignment(s) – DUE Date → Sunday @ 11:59 PM**
 - Graded Assignments must be uploaded to Schoology. This includes paper or digital assignments.
 - Handing assignments on the due date will provide the most accurate grade for the student and parent/guardians.
- **LATE WORK** – will be accepted until the end of the unit.
 - The end of the unit is defined as the day we conclude the unit. This could be a culminating summative assessment such as a unit test or lab.
 - Late work will be corrected and entered into Schoology **AFTER** all current assignments have been graded. This is to ensure quality feedback on the most recent work completed by students.
 - Please be aware, that depending on when and how much late work is turned in, late work will take time to update in PowerSchool.
 - However, if you are wondering if your students turned in their late work – You or Your Student – can view that activity on Schoology!

- **Meeting deadlines will be the focus as students practice their POG skill of Responsibility.**
- **Lab Submissions** – Labs will always be done on paper.
 - Most Biology labs will span multiple blocks and will be chunked into sections to ensure students are able to complete the lab by the due date. Lab packets will be collected in class.
 - Since these labs are large and considered a summative assessment, they will take longer to grade.

LABORATORY CONDUCT

- **Students & Parents must sign the lab safety rules prior to being allowed to participate in labs.**
 - For specific rules and safety protocols, please refer to the lab safety contract as needed.
- **Not following lab safety rules could result in a zero for the lab.**
 - Wear your goggles.
 - Food and drink is NOT permitted in the lab. If the lab uses common food or beverages, it is especially important that you DO NOT eat, drink, or consume anything in a lab setting.
 - DO NOT play with the sinks or gas lines.
 - Short sleeves, closed-toe shoes, hair pulled back.

CLASSROOM RULES & PACKER PRIDE

Be respectful and kind to everyone.

Come to class on time and be prepared.

Follow all posted classroom rules & routines.

Complete assigned work on time.

Communicate with your teacher in person, through email, or Schoology when you have questions.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

In the era of technological advances, please be aware of appropriate use of information obtained from Google, AI, ChatGPT, and other students. I want to assess your knowledge. Cheating/Plagiarism is not acceptable. Please refer to the WFHS Student Handbook for specific information on cheating and plagiarism.

BLOCK SCHEDULE & BIOLOGY UNITS PER SEMESTER

Mrs. Duffy's Teaching Schedule		Semester 1	Semester 2
A Days	B Days		
Block 1: AP Biology	Block 1: Biology	Unit 1: Scientific Method	Unit 6: Genetics
Block 2: Biology PLC	Block 2: Prep	Unit 2: Macromolecules & Enzymes	Unit 7: Evolution
Block 3: AP Biology	Block 3: Biology	Unit 3: Cells & Cell Transport	Unit 8: Photosynthesis
Block 4: Study Hall	Block 4: Biology	Unit 4: DNA	Unit 9: Cellular Respiration
		Unit 5: Mitosis & Meiosis	Unit 10: Ecology

Schoology Assignment Submission – Thursday, August 28th at 11:59 PM Proof of Acknowledgement from Student & Parent/Guardian

- OPTION #1: [Microsoft Office Form Link](#)
- OPTION #2: Paper Syllabus and Lab Contract forms (2 separate documents – Syllabus Signatures below)

Please take a screen shot of – **Just this Page** – and upload it to Schoology by **Thursday, August 28 @ 11:59 PM**.
I have read the above rules and expectations. I accept them and will abide by them.

Student Name – Printed

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name – Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date