Biology (PreAP) Instructional Plan

Biology Pre AP

Welcome to Biology! During the year students will take notes, conduct laboratory investigations, and practice critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Biology covers a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; nucleic acids and genetics; biological evolution; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; living systems; homeostasis; and ecosystems and the environment.

Here is the link for the PreAP course Agreement:

PreAP course agreement

Contact Information

Teacher Name: Saskia Borjas Saskia.Borjas@midlandisd.net
Veronica Costilla Veronica.Costilla@midlandisd.net

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared to engage in learning. Students are expected to demonstrate respect, responsibility, and a commitment to learning. This includes arriving on time, being prepared with necessary materials, actively participating in class discussions and activities, and completing assignments on time. Respect for peers, the teacher, and the learning environment is essential—disruptive behavior, inappropriate language, or bullying will not be tolerated. Students should maintain academic integrity at all times and seek help when needed. A positive, focused attitude and consistent effort will contribute to a productive and supportive classroom community for everyone.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular school attendance is essential. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's education. The student and parent should avoid unnecessary absences. Two important state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit—are discussed in the MISD Student Handbook.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years and could result in loss of credit.

Biology (PreAP) Instructional Plan

Biology 1st Semester Units

By the end of the first semester, students will learn the following:

1st Six Weeks **23 Instructional days (Aug 19-Sept. 19)**
Unit 01: BOY, Lab Safety, Sci. Method
Unit 02: Biomolecules **B.5A, B.11B,** B.1F, B.4C **EXT: 1.A - 4.B**
Unit 03: Cell Structure/Viruses **B.5B, B.5D,** B.1F, B.4C **EXT: 1.A - 4.B**
2nd Six Weeks **28 Instructional days (Sept. 22-Oct. 31)**
Unit 04: Photosynthesis & Cell Respiration **B.11A,** B.1B, B.1C, B.1D, B.1E, B.1G **EXT: 5.A - 6.K**
Unit 05: DNA Structure/Replication, Cell Cycle & Cancer **B.6A, B6.C, B.7A,** B.3A,B.4B **EXT: 7.A - 8.A**
3rd Six Weeks **27 Instructional days (Nov. 4-Dec. 19)**
Unit 06: Meiosis, Chromosomal Mutations, Karyotypes (8 days) **B.7C, B.8A,** B.2B, B.3B, B.3C
Unit 07: Protein Synthesis, Mutations, Environmental Factors (8 days) **B.6B, B.7B, B.7C,** B.2B, B.3B, B.3C
Semester Review/Finals 9 days

Biology (PreAP) Instructional Plan

Course Resources

Resources:
Students will access most course materials, assignments, and announcements through Google Classroom. This includes digital readings,notes, videos, interactive activities, and study guides. In addition, students will use the classroom Biology textbook for reference and in-class learning activities. Textbooks will remain in the classroom to ensure they are available for daily instruction.

Access:
Students will receive a Google Classroom code at the start of the course to join the online class. Internet-connected devices will be needed to view and complete online assignments outside of class. All required resources will be provided either digitally via Google Classroom or physically in the classroom.

-

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

1. The departmental grading policy will meet the district's framework with 60% of the grade being MAJOR GRADES and 40% being MINOR GRADES.
    a. Major grades will include such things as tests, projects, essays, long-term assignments, etc. There must be two or more grades in the Major category each grading cycle.
    b. Minor grades will include daily grades, homework, quizzes, etc.

Redo Policy

It is the goal of teachers to promote student success and when a student does not succeed on a summative assessment, a redo assessment may be requested. If a student receives a failing grade on a summative assessment, the student may request a redo assignment from his/her teacher.

The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for a redo assignment:

1. The student must have made a significant effort on the original test. Significant effort is defined as:
    - No randomly marked answers and
    - All work/questions are attempted and
    - Work is meaningful and represents deliberate thought

2. The student must complete a reasonable intervention measure as prescribed by a teacher with the aim of improving mastery of the topics covered within the allotted time.

3. The student will have 5 school days from the date of notification of the grade (via in class notification or online grading system) to request a redo assessment.

Once the above criteria are met the teacher will administer the redo at the prearranged time. The following do not qualify for redo:

Biology (PreAP) Instructional Plan

1. Assessments that students refuse to initially take in class.

2. Redo not completed by the end of the grading cycle (The Wednesday prior to the end of the grading period on Friday).

The opportunity to redo/retake shall exist for major grades included in a student's average except for semester exams. The maximum grade awarded on a redo/retake is 75. Failure to complete the prescribed intervention and/or meet the timeline established by the teacher will result in the student receiving the original grade awarded. Teachers may choose to offer additional redo opportunities for minor or major grades at their discretion.

School-wide System of Communication

MFHS teachers have several ways to communicate with our MFHS families. Teachers will send out notifications every other week via Skyward, Blackboard or Class Dojo to keep families informed of student academic progress and upcoming events.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!