

George Washington High School

Course Syllabus



Course Name: Biology

Instructor Name: Mr. Kevin H. Gomez

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- Planning Period/Office Hours: **5th Period (1:05-1:55 pm)**

Course Description and VDOE Standards:

Biology is the study of life and living organisms, exploring their structures, chemical processes, system interactions, physiological functions, development, and evolution. From atoms to cells, genes to proteins, and populations to ecosystems, biology uncovers the complex and captivating systems that sustain life.

This is an **HONORS** course. **Honors Biology** provides a rigorous and challenging learning experience that encourages critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and the application of biological concepts to real-world phenomena. Students are expected to actively participate, collaborate, and demonstrate academic responsibility while engaging in laboratory investigations and evidence-based learning. Our classroom is committed to maintaining a respectful, inclusive, and supportive environment where all students are encouraged to grow intellectually, embrace challenges, and achieve their highest potential.

VDOE Standards:

BIO.1 The student will demonstrate an understanding of scientific and engineering practices

BIO.2 The student will investigate and understand that chemical and biochemical processes are essential for life.

BIO.3 The student will investigate and understand that cells have structure and function.

BIO.4 The student will investigate and understand that bacteria and viruses affect living systems.

BIO.5 The student will investigate and understand that there are common mechanisms for inheritance.

BIO.6 The student will investigate and understand that modern classification systems can be used as organizational tools for scientists in the study of organisms.

BIO.7 The student will investigate and understand that populations change through time.

BIO.8 The student will investigate and understand that there are dynamic equilibria within populations, communities, and ecosystems.

Major Assignments:

1. Interims
2. Unit Post Assessments
3. Projects
4. Labs

Student Evaluation:

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|--|------|
| • (Gold) Tests, Projects, Labs, Final Essays | 40 % |
| • (Silver) Quizzes, Lab Reports | 35 % |
| • (Bronze) Classwork and Homework | 25 % |

A = 90-100% | B = 89-80% | C = 79-70% | D = 69-60% | F = 59-0%

- **Final Exams** will count for 10% of the overall grade for each high school course.
 - Courses with Standards of Learning end-of -course assessments will count this test as the final exam and must calculate the score as 10% of the final grade

Student Goal:

During the 2026–2027 school year, all students will actively engage with High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and instruction provided by the teacher to earn a final course grade of 80% or higher, maintain 90% or greater attendance in the course, and pass the applicable End-of-Course SOL assessment or gain industry credential.

Promotion Requirements:

In alignment with the Virginia High School League, individual student promotion shall be based upon satisfactory performance as follows:

Grade Level	Required Credits
9 th	0-5
10 th	6
11 th	12
12 th	18

Promotion is based upon earned units of credits. Before a student can graduate, he or she must earn the required credits as indicated below:

1. To be classified as a 10th grader, a student must have earned a minimum of six (6) standard units of credit to include three credits, which must be from the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, history, or physical education.
2. To be classified as an 11th grader, a student must have earned a minimum of twelve (12) standards of credit to include six credits which must be from the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, history, or physical education.
3. To be classified as a 12th grader, a student must have earned a minimum of eighteen (18) standard units of credit, including ten credits, which must be from the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, history, or physical education.
4. Five (5) verified credits (i.e., English (2), mathematics (1), science (1), and history (1) are graduation requirements for the Advanced Diploma and Standard Diploma). Minimally, students are expected to earn verified credits as follows:
 - i. 9th grade earns at least one verified credit
 - ii. 10th grade earns at least two verified credits
 - iii. 11th grade earns at least two verified credits in English

Please be aware that you can keep track of your student's grades, assignments, and attendance by using your Parent Portal account. Homework is posted each week on our school webpage under the teacher's name. Please contact your student's school counselor or grade level administrator if you need help navigating our school website, a Parent Portal activation code, or assistance accessing the Parent Portal.

Course Requirements:

- All homework should be completed as assigned.
- All students should be ready to participate in all class activities.
- All students will be expected to use appropriate classroom etiquette.
- All students are expected to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn on a daily basis

Makeup Work Procedure:

- For excused absences, it is the responsibility of the student to secure and complete the missed assignments in consultation with the teacher. Students have 7 days, including weekends, from the due date to complete any missing work.

Late Work Procedure:

- Late work will be accepted up to 3 calendar days after the due date. If that date falls on the weekend/breaks/student absence, students **should** communicate with the teacher on submission requirements.
- No assignment will be accepted beyond three days of the original due date and the student may receive a grade of Zero. After the three days the student may utilize the Grade Recovery Procedure to recover missing assignments.
- Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 25% off of the earned grade.
 - **Late work formula calculation** → $\text{Student Score} \times 0.75 = \text{Final Assignment Score}$
 - ie. if a student submits an assignment late and earns a 90, the late penalty would be 22.5 points deducted for a total of 67.5% grade

Parent and Student Resources

- All parents are encouraged to check the Parent Portal to monitor student academic progress and attendance. PowerSchool Mobile can be downloaded from Google Play and the App Store.
- Be sure to follow the George Washington High School on Facebook and on the DPS App.

