

Naperville North High School Biology Syllabus



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District Mission

To educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors.

Science Department Mission

At Naperville North High School, our mission is to provide high-quality, innovative, and engaging science education that fosters deep understanding, critical thinking, and a lifelong passion for scientific inquiry. Grounded in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), our curriculum and teaching approach empower students to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world. We are dedicated to nurturing curiosity, collaboration, and scientific literacy, preparing our students to become informed citizens who can contribute to solving local and global challenges through the application of scientific principles.

Course Description

AP Biology is an equivalent introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: Chemistry of Biology, Evolution, Cellular Processes, Transfer Of Energy, Cell Communication, Inheritance, Information Transfer, Ecology, Bio-Technology; & Interactions. The course also incorporates the instruction and use of Biotechnology applications to engage in the novel study of organisms and biochemical processes. Recommended prerequisites from A.P. Biology Central include high-school level biology and chemistry courses. *Honors Chemistry is highly recommended at NNHS for entry into the course.*

Course Textbook & Resources

Campbell's A.P. Biology
AP Central
<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/>

Course Standards & Weights

College Board Standards
<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-biology-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

SEL Standards

- 1C.4b. Apply strategies to overcome obstacles to goal achievement.
- 2B.4b. Demonstrate respect for individuals from different social and cultural groups.
- 3B.4a. Evaluate personal abilities to gather information, generate alternatives, and anticipate the consequences of decisions.

Units of Study:

Unit 1: Chemistry Of Life
Unit 2: Cell Structure & Function
Unit 3: Cellular Energetics
Unit 4: Cellular Communication & Cell Cycle I
Unit 5: Natural Selection
Unit 6: Heredity & Cell Cycle II
Unit 7: Gene Expression & Regulation
Unit 8: Ecology

Overarching Themes: Inquiry Investigation Of Life Through STEM Initiative



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Grade Calculation Definitions

At Naperville North we define practice & evidence as follows:

Practice is used to monitor student's learning to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by students to improve their learning. Examples may include but are not limited to: modeling; presentations; group work; practice activities; homework; quizzes; readings; videos; cinematic presentations etc. & some performance evaluations. A.P. Biology will utilize reading and progress checks as well as preparation activities for practice. Practice does not contribute directly to a student's grades, rather it is substantive for earning credit in other ways. Example: A student may be asked to prepare for a modeling demonstration. The preparation may be required though points are not assigned to it.

Evidence is used to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit or segment of learning by comparing it against a standard or benchmark. Examples may include but are not limited to: quizzes; labs, tests; essays; problem sets; modeling; demonstration; presentations; journals; readings; videos; cinematic presentations; collaborative work; progress checks; content quizzes & some performance evaluations, especially with regard to the bio-technology portion of the course. (100%). Students may be required to submit evidence in the form of a lab-book. Lab books are a bound (non 3-ring binder) book that may be submitted with intact work.

Grading Disbursement

Semester grades for all classes (prior to the final exam) will be calculated by a weighted average. As part of the calculation for the overall semester grade, final exams/projects will not exceed 15% of the semester grade.

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

Semester Grade:

- Coursework = 85%
Evidence of Learning: 100%
- Final Exam = 15% *Final Exam Format: Exam & Performance Based Assessment*

Grading Practices

Grades communicate each student's progress toward mastery of goals/standards for the course.

- Infinite Campus Symbols/Comments:
 - A score of "Missing" (M) will indicate an assessment has not been turned in and the comments section will include a specific date by which students can still submit. After that date, a zero (0) will be recorded.
 - Any score may also have a comment indicating the due date, turned in, late, reassessment eligibility including the timeline and/or reassessment final scores.
 - A zero indicates that no attempt was made by the student. If a legitimate attempt is made on an assessment and practice work has been completed in a consistent and timely manner a score of 50% will be the lowest possible grade.
- Late Work:
 - Evidence of Learning work submitted after the original due date cannot be penalized more than a

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	total of 10% and can be submitted for credit up to 5 days after the original due date. ○ Practice Work is not accepted for credit after the due date. ● Other: ○ No extra credit will be issued. ○ Practice may be required for collaborative work & evidence.				
D203 AI Belief Statement	At Naperville North High School, we strive to build a learner’s mindset in all students, developing qualities such as adaptability, communication, critical thinking, and global citizenship. Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), offers new opportunities to engage with important technology relevant to the future that also raises significant educational considerations. AI tools provide unique ways to engage students in the learning process, hence we encourage our staff to guide students in using AI responsibly. Teachers have the authority to establish guidelines for AI use in their classrooms, setting clear expectations for how AI can be used on learning tasks. Concurrently, we recognize that reliance on AI risks replacing genuine student engagement and original thought, undermining the attributes we aim to cultivate. Striking a balance between leveraging AI tools effectively and maintaining educational standards is crucial to the learning experience of each student.				
Academic Integrity Code	District 203 students are challenged to address the academic process enthusiastically, diligently, and most importantly, honestly. It is the responsibility of our students, teachers, and administration to uphold the fundamental academic values of honesty, responsibility, fairness, respect and trust. The integrity of our district’s academic programs is built upon these principles. Academic integrity violations include but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism or copy infringement, obtaining or providing an unfair advantage, using a writing service and/or AI in place of original work unless specifically authorized by staff, falsification of documents, unauthorized access to records, and inappropriate collaboration, whether intentional or unintentional. The classroom teacher and administration will collaborate and exercise professional judgment in determining academic integrity violations.				
Reassessment Policy	The purpose of reassessment is to allow students to demonstrate mastery of course standards in which they remain deficient. Higher reassessment grades will replace the original assessment score, but will not exceed 85%. ● Practice work is not eligible for reassessment. ● Evidence Of Learning work <u>may</u> be eligible for reassessment. Refer to the chart below for eligibility: <table><tr><td> ☐ The assessment included multiple opportunities for feedback and improvement in the process for the final product OR formative assessments are aligned to standards, allow students to practice in the same assessment format, and gain feedback for improvement before the summative assessment. </td><td> ☐ There was timely and consistent completion of practice work and all assessments, as listed in Infinite Campus. ☐ A one-time performance on an assessment does not reflect the student’s level of proficiency leading up to the assessment. ☐ Summative assessment score is below 85%. </td></tr><tr><td>Not eligible for reassessment</td><td>Eligible for reassessment if all three statements above are true.</td></tr></table>	☐ The assessment included multiple opportunities for feedback and improvement in the process for the final product OR formative assessments are aligned to standards, allow students to practice in the same assessment format, and gain feedback for improvement before the summative assessment.	☐ There was timely and consistent completion of practice work and all assessments, as listed in Infinite Campus. ☐ A one-time performance on an assessment does not reflect the student’s level of proficiency leading up to the assessment. ☐ Summative assessment score is below 85%.	Not eligible for reassessment	Eligible for reassessment if all three statements above are true.
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Student Communication

Additional Resources for Support

Parents or Guardians Partnership

Reassessment Parameters:

- The reassessment opportunity will require designated learning experiences that demonstrate readiness as assigned by the teacher.
 - Reassessments **MUST** be completed within 5 school days of the student receiving feedback unless otherwise determined by the instructor. The reassessment deadline should be communicated in an IC comment.
 - The reassessment score will be capped at 85%.
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- You are encouraged to communicate with your teacher regarding questions.
 - Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 24 hours during the workweek.
 - The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven't received a response within 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have been filtered.
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- You can make an appointment with your teacher should you need additional instruction or support in learning material.
 - You can attend peer tutoring in the Lit Center during lunch periods to receive extra support or to work on assignments.
 - You can drop in to work with a peer tutor during lunch periods or before school in the Literacy Center.
 - You can attend A.P. Bio Lunch for help with lab-work; test-prep; retakes; & other curricular concerns.
 - Obtain a supplemental resource or review book such as those listed on Canvas.
 - Digital viewing options include but are not limited to: Nova Chemistry Series; Khan Academy; The Biology Project; A.P. Central & select cinematic movies.

Naperville North believes in a collective partnership with parents/guardians which provides students the best opportunities for success.

Some ways parents/guardians can support their student's learning are:

- Actively check Infinite Campus for their student's grades.
 - Infinite Campus is a tool to progress monitor student work until the final course grade is posted.
 - Monthly progress grades are posted and represent the current grade of a student in the course at that moment in time.
- Discuss missing assignments, reiterate due dates, help organize folders, materials, assignment notebooks, and review upcoming projects and assessments.