

Naperville North High School PLTW Medical Interventions Syllabus 2026/2027



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D203 Profile of A Learner

We are proud to present the Profile of a Learner, which outlines the key competencies and descriptors our community has identified as essential for our students: Adaptability, Communication, Critical Thinking, Learner's Mindset, Global Citizen.

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

Medical Interventions (MI) allows students to investigate the variety of interventions involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease as they follow the lives of a fictitious family. A "How-To" manual for maintaining overall health and homeostasis in the body, the course will explore how to prevent and fight infection, how to screen and evaluate the code in our DNA, how to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer, and how to prevail when the organs of the body begin to fail. Through these scenarios students will be exposed to the wide range of interventions related to immunology, surgery, genetics, pharmacology, medical devices, and diagnostics. Each family case scenario will introduce multiple types of interventions, reinforce concepts learned in the previous two courses, and present new content. Interventions may range from simple diagnostic tests to treatment of complex diseases and disorders. These interventions will be showcased across the generations of the family and will provide a look at the past, present, and future of biomedical science. Lifestyle choices and preventive measures are emphasized throughout the course as well as the important role that scientific thinking and engineering design play in the development of interventions of the future. Students practice problem solving with structured activities and progress to open-ended projects and problems that require them to develop planning, documentation, communication, and other professional skills.

Through both individual and collaborative team activities, projects, and problems, students will tackle real-world challenges faced by biomedical professionals in the field. They will work with the same tools and equipment used in hospitals and labs as they engage in relevant hands-on work. Students will develop skill in technical documentation to represent and communicate experimental findings and solutions to problems. In addition, students will explore how connections to other disciplines such as computer science and engineering shape the future of medicine and practice collaboration techniques that will help them connect with professionals across any field.

At the end of the course, students take the national PLTW End of Course (EoC) Assessment. This assessment gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of concepts and skills learned throughout the entire course. Students may be eligible to apply for college credit for this course (at a reduced rate) based on the final course grade and their EoC score. For more information regarding college credits for this course, please visit: <https://www.pltw.org/experience-pltw/student-opportunities> and refer to [this document from district 203](#).

Course Textbook & Resources

Online textbook/ course resources at my.pltw.org



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Course Standards & Weights

HS-LS1-1. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the structure of DNA determines the structure of proteins which carry out the essential functions of life through systems of specialized cells.

HS-LS1-2. Develop and use a model to illustrate the hierarchical organization of interacting systems that provide specific functions within multicellular organisms.

HS-LS1-3. Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that feedback mechanisms maintain homeostasis.

HS-LS1-4. Use a model to illustrate the role of cellular division (mitosis) and differentiation in producing and maintaining complex organisms.

HS-LS3-1. Ask questions to clarify relationships about the role of DNA and chromosomes in coding the instructions for characteristic traits passed from parents to offspring.

HS-LS3-2. Make and defend a claim based on evidence that inheritable genetic variations may result from: (1) new genetic combinations through meiosis, (2) viable errors occurring during replication, and/or (3) mutations caused by environmental factors.

HS-LS4-4. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how natural selection leads to adaptation of populations.

HS-LS4-5. Evaluate the evidence supporting claims that changes in environmental conditions may result in: (1) increases in the number of individuals of some species, (2) the emergence of new species over time, and (3) the extinction of other species.

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 How to Fight Infection

In this unit students are introduced to Sue Smith, the eighteen-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Sue is a college freshman who is presenting symptoms of an unknown infectious disease which students eventually identify as bacterial meningitis. Sue survives the infection but is left with hearing impairment. Through this case students will explore the diagnostic process used to identify an unknown infection, the use of antibiotics as a treatment, how bacteria develop antibiotic resistance, how hearing impairment is assessed and treated, and how vaccinations are developed and used to prevent infection.

Unit 2 How to Screen What is in Your Genes

In this unit students are introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Sue's parents. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are very excited to find out they are expecting a new baby. Because the couple is in their early 40s, the doctor has suggested genetic screening and testing. Through this case students will explore how to screen and evaluate the code in our DNA, the value of good prenatal care, and the future of genetic technology.



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Unit 3 How to Conquer Cancer

In this unit students are introduced to Mike Smith, the sixteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Mike is diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer that often affects teenagers. Mike’s treatments put him into remission; however, in order to remove all of the cancerous tissue, he had to have most of his arm amputated. Mike now needs a prosthesis. Through this case students will explore the diagnostic process used to determine the presence of cancerous cells, the risk factors and prevention of cancer, rehabilitation after disease or injury, and the design process for new medications, prosthetics, and nanotechnology.

Unit 4 How to Prevail When Organs Fail

In this unit students are introduced to Mrs. Jones, the forty-four-year-old sister of Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Jones has been struggling with Type 1 Diabetes for twenty years. Over the years, Mrs. Jones did not take good care of herself or properly control her diabetes. She eventually began using an insulin pump and changed her lifestyle to regulate her blood sugar levels, but the damage had already been done. Mrs. Jones is now dealing with end stage renal failure and needs a kidney transplant. Through this case students will explore protein production, blood sugar regulation, dialysis, organ donation and transplantation, and non-invasive surgery techniques. In addition students will create a bionic human.

Unit breakdown can be found on the [PLTW Medical Interventions course page](#).



Grade Calculation Definitions

Students will be provided with multiple and varied opportunities to demonstrate mastery of learning standards. Although varied in content, all courses will include examples of practice and evidence of learning:

- **Evidence of Learning:** Tasks or assessments where feedback is provided to the student and considered evidence of a student’s level of proficiency on a given standard or skill. This may include, but is not limited to formative tasks that provide insights on areas for growth as well as summative tests, projects and/or performances. In this course, specific examples include: unit tests (both multiple choice and essay in format); projects and/or presentations; unit quizzes, lab quizzes, lab practicals and lab skills.
- **Practice:** Tasks that are connected to course standards and learning targets that promote the development of skills and/or knowledge that will be assessed, but where feedback is not provided. This may include, but is not limited to daily readings, note taking, practice exercises and tasks essential to the learning process. In this course, specific examples include: lab notebooks, reading notes, article annotations, pre-lab preparation, and lab skills.



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 = 90%, Practice= 10%)
- Final Exam = 15% *Final Exam Format:* Multiple choice; 2nd semester students will take the PLTW EOC (end of course 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



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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 (*completing 85% of practice listed in Infinite Campus.*), 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 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.

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 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.

Technology Expectations

- **Cell phones:** Students will be expected to store their cell phones in a phone holder or designated classroom location throughout each class period as communicated by each teacher. Cell phones should not be seen or heard in the classroom setting. Appropriate use of cell phones is allowed during passing periods, during study halls, at lunch, before and after school. Please note that cell phone use is strictly prohibited in locker rooms and restrooms at all times.
- **Ear buds and headphones:** The use of ear buds and headphones is strictly prohibited in the classroom unless permission has been granted by the teacher. Ear buds and headphones should not be seen or heard in the classroom setting. For safety reasons, students should also be able to hear announcements, alerts, etc. at all times and, therefore, students are permitted to use one ear bud or headphone during passing periods, at lunch, before and after school.
- **District issued Chromebooks:** Students are required to use their District issued Chromebook and will not be permitted to use personal laptops or devices in the classroom setting. Student personal devices are not protected by district systems and put student safety and the safety of our network at risk. Additionally, student personal devices are not enabled with applications and programs necessary for



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administration of state and AP assessments.

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 may be eligible for reassessment.
Reassessment is on Unit Tests only.
Since there will be multiple opportunities for feedback and improvement before final products are turned in for projects, presentations, etc there will be no reassessments on those.
- Refer to the chart below for eligibility:

☐ 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 formative assessments. ☐ 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.

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 final reassessment score will be capped at 85%.
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- You are encouraged to communicate with their 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.

Student Communication

Additional Resources for Support



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Parents or Guardians Partnership

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.