

Ms. Toepke-Peterson — Biology Syllabus

mtopke@west-fargo.k12.nd.us

2026-2027

Book

Reading materials will be available in your One Note.

Lesson Plans

Check Weekly Folders on Schoology.

Weekly Checklist

Include assignments that must be completed in order. Plan accordingly. Entire folder due on/before Unit test.

Schoology Access

Students

School ID

Number@west-fargo.k12.nd.us

Contact tech for password reset; teachers cannot help passwords

Parents

Access and view everything students can see. If you would like more information on how to sign up for Parent access, send me an email.

Grades

Grades are in Infinite Campus. Please check weekly for accuracy. If you notice a problem, please let your teacher know as soon as possible.

Ms. Toepke's Schedule — Room 212 J

7:50 AM-3:40 PM

	1 8:25 – 9:55	Advisory WIN 10:00 - 10:20	2 10:25 - 11:55	Lunch 11:55- 12:25	3 12:30 - 2:00	4 2:05 - 3:35
A Days	Envi. Sci. 212J	212 J	Earth Science 212J	Lunch	Anatomy 212J	Study Hall 212J
B Days	PLC	212 J	Biology 212J	Lunch	Biology 212J	Prep

Weighted Gradebook (Infinite Campus)

5% - Starters (one attempt at the very beginning of class, often timed)

25% - Practice (Items in weekly checklist with multiple attempts)

70% - Assessment (quizzes, tests, labs, projects, presentations, modeling)

Semester Grade Calculation

Semester 1= Quarter 1: 50%, Quarter 2:50%

Semester 2= Quarter 3:50%, Quarter 4:50%

Grading Scale

100 – 90 = A

89 – 80 = B

79 – 70 = C

69 – 60 = D

59 and below = F = (no credit)

Student & Parent Reference Guides

* WFHS Student Handbook (app on iPad)

- A great reference for things not listed or discussed here

BASIC Class Expectations

- Follow order of assignments in Schoology
- Make sure you hit SUBMIT on Schoology when finished with an assignment. Schoology DOES NOT automatically submit assignments for you.
- Submit all items through Schoology; do not email.
- Late work will be marked zero until it is submitted. Submissions are still welcome through the end of the unit.
- Use Schoology through the internet, not the App unless told otherwise.
- Complete your OWN work unless told you are working in a group. Cheating is unacceptable and will result in a zero for the assignment.
- Speak English when around others that don't speak your language.
- Phones will be in your backpack not on you.
- Grades will be updated as soon as possible.

Communication (8:00 am-4:00 pm)

Student communication —Email or talk to me in class or before or after school or during my prep/SH

·Parent Communication—Email (best) mtopke@west-fargo.k12.nd.us

Safety

- Use hand sanitizer after blowing your nose or going to the bathroom.
- Stay home if you are sick but do the work for that day at home so you are caught up when you return.
- Follow all lab precautions; chemicals will be used

Responsibility

- Be on time and prepared for a starter as soon as the bell rings. Look to the board for activity instructions.
- Attendance for in class sessions is very important; make every effort to be here, on time, and prepared every day unless ill
- The 5th tardy will get you detention. Credit for the class will be lost on absence 13.
- Appointments (Dentist, Eye exams, driver's license exams etc.) should be scheduled for non-school days or after school hours when possible. It will be difficult to make up in class activities.
- Always Bring a pencil, **charged** iPad, Logitech Crayon, and charger (in case of emergency)

Movement

- Upon classroom entry, get binder and move immediately to your assigned seat.
- Remove supplies from backpack (iPad, Logitech Crayon) and place all unused materials in backpack under your desk
- If you need to move for any reason, you must have permission from your teacher (unless you're going to throw up ...then run!)
 - If you need to blow your nose to the door, take a tissue and blow your nose in the *hallway*. Throw tissue away, *sanitize* hands, and return to your *assigned seat*.
 - Bathroom breaks are *very* limited, you will most likely be unable to use the bathroom during class time. Exceptions may be made based on circumstances
 - Water bottles must be filled *before* class, you will not be allowed to leave to refill water bottles.
- Stay in assigned seat until the bell rings.

Respect

- Respect property/supplies within the classroom and follow instructions for cleaning spaces, particularly during labs
- Treat all peers, teachers, paras and other individuals in the class with the utmost kindness and respect
- iPads will only be used when told to do so, if not it is closed and set aside.
- Cell Phone use is not allowed during the school day. It must be put away in a backpack or not in school it will be confiscated and goes to the office.
- Earbuds/headphones are not allowed in the classroom.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the classrooms. **ONLY WATER**
- If you fall asleep in class you will stand up the rest of the class period.
- Any behavior, clothing, or activity that interferes with student learning will not be tolerated. (**No Loud gum chewing.**)
- Work until all work is finished in weekly folders. Extra time? Work on other classes. All class time must be used.
- You must be able to be signed into Classroom App. If not get help in the library. You will not be allowed to take test or quizzes unless you are locked into the app.
- YouTube is not allowed to be used in the classroom.
- **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is wrong. This means you should not copy someone else's work or ideas and say they are yours. Do not copy and paste sentences from the internet, a textbook, or any other source. You must use your own words (this is called *paraphrasing*) or give credit to the source (this is called *citing*). Copying from another student or letting someone copy from you is cheating. Screen shots sent to other students is also cheating and will have the same consequences. This will result in zero points for both students. This also includes using AI, like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, etc. If you are found to have cheated, your principal will be contacted. If the cheating continues, contact will be made with your guardians.

Requirements:

Attendance- Students are expected to show up to class on-time.

- Excused Absences will be given the amount of days they are gone, plus 1 day (according to school policy) to complete and turn-in the missed work.
- Unexcused absence means students will not be able to make up any work or points given that class.
- School Excused Absences (Activities) are required to be mentioned at least **THREE** days prior so all possible material can be given to the student. If materials are not prepared at that time, I will work with you on creating a personal plan.
- Medical Absences require a note to the office within two weeks of the medical appointment. The office will handle these.

NEW District Attendance Policy

No matter the student, the following attendance policy is now in place for each semester. The following absences do not include medical or activity (school excused) absences.

Absences 1-10, if excused or ill, students will be able to make up work. See the *Excused Absences* above.

Absences 11-12, if excused or ill, students will NOT have the ability to make up work from those days OR due on those days.

Absence 13, if excused or ill, will cause a student to be removed from the class with a "Loss Credit" recorded on their transcript.

As the teacher I will more than likely reach out when a student has reached an absence total around 7, however the school and admin will be sending out regular communication with families regarding absences.

Late work- For the majority of the assignments, no late work penalty will be applied. However, there will be a hard deadline for the end of the unit for that unit's work. Sometimes deadlines might be put in place in the middle of the unit and for bigger projects/assignments, a late penalty could apply. Please keep up with the schedule and what is in Powerschool to know of these deadlines. Communication is key*.

Tardies- Students who show up 20 minutes after class has started will be marked unverified (UV). Every 5th tardy in the semester will result in a detention. Refer to the student handbook for more specifics.

Failure to follow class/school expectations will result in a disciplinary action.

- 1. Meet with the teacher to determine the consequences.**
- 2. Be removed from the class and sent to the office. (receive a zero for work done that day)**

Course Description

Biology is the study of life. Over the course of a year, we will work to gain understanding of the most basic unit of life (a cell), how multiple cells communicate, how cells grow to become organisms and create and use energy, through organisms interacting with both living and nonliving parts of their surroundings as well as how life has changed on earth. This course will take you from the most microscopic interactions to whole population interactions, giving you a rich knowledge of life on Earth.

Semester Units

Objective

1	Scientific Method	Design a controlled experiment, collect, graph, analyze data to form a conclusion
2	Macromolecules & Enzymes	Explain the role of enzymes in chemical reactions of macromolecules and their functions in cells
3	Cells and Cell Transport	Identify basic components of cells and model how information and molecules are transferred and identified within a cell
4	DNA to Proteins	Explain how, where, and why DNA codes for protein
5	Homeostasis	Use knowledge from previous units to explain how homeostasis in a living organism

	Semester 2 Units	
1	Mitosis & Meiosis	Describe how somatic and gamete cells grow and reproduce
2	Genetics	Use knowledge of types of inheritance to complete Punnett squares and pedigrees to make predictions about offspring
3	Natural Selection and Evolution	Use knowledge of genetics and natural selection to analyze fitness and identify adaptations which drive evolution
4	Cellular Energy	Explain and model the processes that use and create chemical energy within cells (Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration, Glycolysis, Fermentation)
5	Ecology	Describe how organisms interact with their environment and describe organization from organism to biome