



COURSE SYLLABUS Biology

Teacher: Dr. Parker/1401, Dr. Bush/1423, Ms. Gore/1413, Mr. Murphy/1400	Textbook: Biology Glencoe #of Carnegie Units 1
Phone Number: 404-802-5200 Semester/Year: 2019-2020 Tutorial Days: Tues. or Thurs. (<i>See teacher</i>) Tutorial Hours: 3:45 - 4:45 pm	Email: Lparker@atlanta.k12.ga.us Albush@atlanta.k12.ga.us Sgore@atlanta.k12.ga.us Jemurphy@atlanta.k12.ga.us

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to your endeavor into the world of Biology. I am excited to welcome you to this course and plan to provide an enriching experience in a subject I dearly love. Throughout the year we will explore many concepts to increase your understanding and critical thinking skills in science. I believe that science is not just about watching but also doing. You will be completing many lab-based activities this year. Your literacy skills will be used and developed through article reviews and journal entries so that you can put the content into context. Simple memorization of content is not beneficial as it does not demonstrate understanding. This course is about taking risks and learning that mistakes lead to real questions and learning. Thomas Edison failed at making a working light bulb over two thousand times. When asked about it, he stated that he found out two thousand ways of how not to make a light bulb. That's real science.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Objectives: When this class concludes at the end of the year (May), all students will have demonstrated progression and eventual mastery in the following skills and concepts:

1. Demonstrate accepted methods, processes and procedures for conducting scientific investigation.
2. Develop and showcase original and authentic research based work to explain learned concepts.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the cellular basis of life.
4. Predict normal patterns of genetic inheritance and explain variation in genetic make-up as well as the social impacts of genetics on society.
4. Explain and apply the concepts of evolution and its impact on scientific work in today's society.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of life and ways in each form of contributes to the web of life.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of ecology, its principles, and the importance of protecting ecosystems and the role they play in the world.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:

Resources: This is a list of resources to assist you during the year. Check these often as we go through each lesson for review and as well as a checklist.

Gifted and Talented Standards:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vsfT7UfdOc7oVT9UlnImiq8fMqUKNSW5nzJipnyWGTY>



1. **Georgia Performance Standards:** <http://www.georgiastandards.org/>
 - a. Click on the Science button at the top of the page for the standards.
2. **Encyclopedia of Life:** <http://www.eol.org>
 - a. Fantastic database being created to catalog all known living organisms.
3. **Cells Alive:** <http://www.cellsalive.com>
 - a. Great interactive site discussing and detailing cell structure, function, and cellular processes.
4. **John Kyrk Website:** <http://www.johnkyrk.com/index.html>
 - a. Completely interactive site demonstrating important cellular processes.
5. **National Geographic:** <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>
 - a. The world famous National Geographic site. Fantastic for articles related to science in general.
6. **Science Daily:** <http://www.sciencedaily.com>
 - a. A comprehensive site providing links to articles dealing with most every scientifically related branch. Here you can find articles relating to physical science, earth science, astronomy, biology, genetics, and much more.

GRADING POLICY:

The school-wide assignment tasks and assigned weights include the following:

Area	Percentage
Classwork	30%
Projects/Labs	15%
Tests/Exam	35%
Quizzes	15%

Grading Scale:

90-100..... A
80-89..... B
70-79C
Below 70..... F
NE....Not Evaluated

****Note: For All GA Milestones courses the GA Milestones Score will be weighted as 20% of the final course grade.**

CLASS POLICIES & PROCEDURES:

Classroom Behavior: This class is designed to allow us to work together and it is our responsibility to behave appropriately. Our actions have consequences and may cause others to not receive the full benefit of a lesson or put someone in harm's way. Think of this room as an extension of your home where respect and kindness should be the norm. We must also be willing to look out for the person next to us to ensure that they are learning and safe.



Required Materials:

Students **MUST** come prepared to class every day with their materials:

- 2 ½-3 inch Binder or (2)100 page Plastic Cover Spiral Notebooks (see teacher)
- Pencil and Pen (blue/black ink)
- Page Protectors (a lot of them)
- 2 packs of Index cards
- Highlighters (multiple colors)
- Loose leaf Paper

9th grade binders must be set up according to the policy

Rules & Expectations:

Non Negotiables

1. **Students must enter classroom with all supplies (pencil, academic portfolio, agenda).**

Students who do not come to class prepared will face the following consequences:

- Automatic detention and phone call home that day
- Lose participation points
- **Students must enter *on time and be on task when bell sounds*.** Students are expected to enter quietly and complete the focus activity silently. Students who do not enter on time will be required to sign the tardy log, and will also be marked late in the Infinite Campus attendance system, as per district requirements. Students who are tardy to class are breaking the student code of conduct, and will face the appropriate consequence.

2. **Students must be actively engaged in class 100% of the time** (this means student has their head up and is on task). Students not in compliance with this policy will face the following sequence of consequences:

- Verbal warning, loss of participation points
- Written warning, phone call home
- Assignment to Academic Intervention Center if work is not completed, phone call home

We have high expectations for all 9th grade students, and have a lot to accomplish this school year! To ensure we are all engaging in a cooperative work environment, students will be held to the following expectations:

Expectations

Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking

Enter on time prepared and ready to learn with materials

Stay in your seat and ask for permission before you leave it

Pay attention, participate, and keep your head up and off your desk

Expect the best of yourself every day (We Will!)

Care for your personal needs outside of the class.

Passes out of the class will be given for emergencies only!

Take pride in your work, turn in Quality work on time.



Student Code of Conduct:

- Students must be in compliance with the student dress code.
- **NO cell phones or other electronic devices** (such as mp3 players, pagers, electronic games, etc.) These items are prohibited during school hours. This includes (but is not limited to) sending/receiving “text messages.” *The power button must be in the “off” position during school hours.* All students found in violation will be subject to the following consequences:
 - **First Offense** – Confiscation of the device for 10 days, at which time the device will be returned to a parent or guardian
 - **Second Offense** – Confiscation of device for the semester, at which time the device will be returned to a parent or guardian on the last day of the current semester.
- Students may only go to their lockers during the designated locker times. This includes before 1st period, before lunch, after lunch, and after 4th period.
- Students must use the restroom during “passing time” between classes. *Passes during class will only be issued for **EMERGENCIES ONLY**.*
- **The “20/20 Rule”** - Students may not leave the classroom during the first and last 20 minutes of class.
- Students must adhere to proper behavior when traveling outside the classroom.

Consequences

If any of the classroom expectations are not adhered to, the following consequences will be followed:

First offense- Verbal Warning

Second offense- Written Warning & Parent Phone Call

Third offense- Detention & Parent Phone Call

Fourth offense- Referral – (Suspension, Parent Conference)

Detention Policy

- Students may receive **detention** for not adhering to any of the rules and expectations outlined above and in the student code of conduct.
- **Detention** is assigned verbally and written on the “detention door”.
- It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of assigned detention sessions and report on time at **3:45**.
- If a student does not show up for an assigned detention, a referral will result followed by **suspension**.
- If a student accumulates more than **2** detentions in one week, an automatic **referral** will follow (**Suspension, Parent Conference**).

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to be in class on time, every day. Any day that a student is absent, he/she is expected to complete the class work and homework that was assigned on that day. **It is the student’s responsibility to obtain all missed assignments!** All make-up work must be completed within a week of the absence.



Late Work:

It is important that students learn to honor and meet due dates and deadlines for class assignments. Students must adhere to due dates and deadlines published in the syllabus or otherwise assigned by the teacher. If a student misses a published due date as a result of an unexcused absence, his or her grade for that assignment can be reduced at the teacher's discretion. A student who misses a due date that was previously assigned because of an approved excused absence must submit the assignment the next time he or she reports to class. **Teachers cannot refuse to accept students' work that is late because of an excused absence. Suspensions are excused absences.**

Daily Assignments & Make Up

Work assigned is for your benefit. Completing that work during class or at home will ensure that your mastery of the content. Your work will be evaluated either through questioning or peer review. Part of your assignment grade will come from reading scientifically related articles and providing me with an abstract of what you read and how it helped your learning in the class. Working hard is not just about getting a grade.

Students who fail to turn in daily assignments due to unexcused absences are not entitled to make up the work for credit. This includes class cuts. Students who miss daily assignments due to excused absences are allowed to make up the work **within three class periods upon his or her return to school.** Arrangements for making up tests, class work, and other assignments after absences are the responsibility of the student.

Science Fair Project

All students enrolled in a science course at Mays High are required to complete a science fair project. This project must be completed prior to the Christmas break. The competition for the school will occur in January. You are required to submit your topic by the 1st Tuesday in September. Log on to www.sciencebuddies.com and follow the prompts to find a title and to transition to completion.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism occurs when a student uses or purchases ghost-written papers or products. It also occurs when a student utilizes ideas or information obtained from another person without giving credit to that person. If plagiarism or another act of academic dishonesty occurs, it will be dealt with in accordance with the academic misconduct policy as stated in the Atlanta Public Schools Handbook and the Benjamin E. Mays High School Handbook.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Parents-Teachers conferences are held **monthly on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 3:45 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. in the cafeteria.** Parents and guardians do not need to make an appointment to attend. The purposes of a parent-teacher conference are:



1. To give parents and teachers a better understanding of the child's performance,
2. To promote close cooperation between the home and school in fostering the growth of the whole child,
3. To give a more accurate picture of the child's school growth as shown by achievement, and
4. To promote a better understanding of the objectives of the school

INFINITE CAMPUS ACCESS:

Parents can access their student's grades, schedule, and attendance online via Infinite Campus Parent Portal <https://ic.apsk12.org/portal>. To activate your account, visit the school registrar to receive your login (activation key).

PROGRESS REPORTS AND DEFICIENCY NOTICES

In an effort to keep parents abreast of their student's academic standing, progress will be issued the last two days of each month and deficiency notices will be issued in accordance with the Atlanta Public Schools dates.



Benjamin E. Mays High School

3450 Benjamin E. Mays Drive, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30331
404.802.5100 (Phone)

Dr. Mulanta Wilkins, Principal

Signature(s) of Acknowledgement:

I, the undersigned, have read, reviewed, and agree to support all of the expectations required for the successful completion of this course during the 2019 – 2020 academic year. I am aware of all academic policies (for MAYS HS and APS) and opportunities for assistance in Dr. Parker's class. I will utilize these resources for the maximum benefit of my child. Should I have any questions or concerns, I acknowledge that I am aware of how to contact Dr. Parker.

Benjamin Elijah Mays High School of Atlanta Public Schools

Student Name (Print) _____ Course _____

I read, reviewed with my parents, and understand the guidelines and expectations for this course.

Parent's signature

Date

Parent's Email and Cell Phone Number

Student's signature

Date