

# Welcome to Biology

## Class Syllabus Mr. Myrup Room L-38

Course Title: Biology

Prerequisite: none

Credit: I full year science credit

Grades: 9-10

Textbook: Biology, Miller & Levine, Pearson Ed Inc. (2010)

Lab Fee: A laboratory fee of \$5.00 is required for all science courses.

### A. Course Description

Biology, study of living things, exposes students to a wide range of biological processes including molecular and cell biology, heredity and genetics, ecology, evolution and the diversity of life. The science processes of observation, questioning, hypothesizing, measurement and data gathering, analysis, interpretation and application are applied. Laboratory activities make up a significant part of the course. State test is required in May. This course fulfills a science requirement for science for high school graduation and also for the Regents' Scholarship.

### B. Biology Utah State Core Standards

STANDARD I: Students will understand that living organisms interact with one another and their environment.

STANDARD II: Students will understand that all organisms are composed of one or more cells that are made of molecules, come from preexisting cells, and perform life functions.

STANDARD III: Students will understand the relationship between structure and function of organs and organ systems.

STANDARD IV: Students will understand that genetic information coded in DNA is passed from parents to offspring by sexual and asexual reproduction. The basic structure of DNA is the same in all living things. Changes in DNA may alter genetic expression.

STANDARD V: Students will understand that biological diversity is a result of evolutionary processes.

### C. Class Procedures

1. Be present and on time - in your seat ready to begin at the bell.
2. Do not disrupt the class - the learning. Please turn off all electronic devices, put away all things that distract from your ability to learn.
3. Be attentive and stay "on task." Do what is expected and participate in the activities of the class.
4. **Be Prepared** - Bring your textbook, notebook, and writing instrument every day as well as any assignment that is due, completed and ready to hand in on time.
5. Respect others, their property and space. Courtesy always wins respect and leaves a lasting impression. Behavior and Dress – Dress appropriately for a school setting. See Student Handbook for guidelines.
6. Seating - teacher's option
7. I excuse you - not the bell.
8. No food, candy, or drinks of any kind in the classroom. Since this is a laboratory class, this becomes a safety issue.

### D. Attendance Procedures - See Student Handbook

1. Timpani High School encourages students to maintain an attendance rate of better than 90%. Class time is valuable learning time and your attendance is directly related to your success in school.
  2. Absences must be cleared by a parent or guardian by a **written note within 5 days** of the absence by note, email or phone call.
  3. A student is considered "tardy" when they are not in their seat **with the appropriate materials** ready to begin at the bell. Students, who are tardy to class, must **sign the tardy log**. This will be used to verify that you were present in class rather than absent.
  4. An "extra tardy" is recorded if a student is later than 10 minutes.
  5. An "unexcused absence" is recorded for a student later than 30 Minutes.
  6. When absent, bring a parent/guardian note to the attendance office within 5 school days of the absence.
  7. An **attendance bonus** (3% grade raise) will be given each term for those who have no unexcused absences, truancies and tardies. This means that 3% of the total points for the term will be added to your individual point total. For example, if a student has 920 points out of 1000 points, he/she would normally have a 92% score and would receive an A- grade. With good attendance, the student receives 30 extra points raising their score to 950 points, a 95% score and an A grade. Extra curricular absences and parent excused absences will not count against your attendance bonus.
    - \* If you have only one unexcused absence or tardy, you will be rewarded with a 2% grade raise.
    - \* If you have only two total unexcused absences or tardies, you will be rewarded with a 1% grade raise.
    - \* If you have three total unexcused absences or tardies, you will not receive a grade raise.
- Note: Truancies will automatically eliminate the attendance bonus.

E. **Learning Expectations**

1. Student behavioral objectives or learning targets based on the state biology core curriculum are provided for each unit. These will be reviewed at the beginning and end of the instruction for each target. Each learning target will have a defined success criteria.
2. Students with IEP's and 504 plans will be given appropriate learning activities to aid them in accomplishing the objectives and learning targets.
3. Students who wish to accelerate can take on extra learning activities beyond the basic class requirements.
4. See Curriculum Map for Biology Course Outline.

F. **Grades**

1. Based on total points - tests, quizzes, labs, assignments, etc.
1. Grading Scale

A 93%		B+ 87%	C+ 77%	D+ 67%
		F below 60%		
A- 90%		B 83%	C 73%	D 63%
	B- 80%	C- 70%	D- 60%	
3. Failing - teacher conference - parent notification
4. Extra credit is considered to be extra work beyond the normal class work and must have prior approval of the teacher. No extra credit is allowed if the student has not completed the normal class work. It cannot be used as makeup for incomplete work.
5. Score sheets - Please keep your scores up to date. Assignment totals will be posted in the classroom.

G. **Assignments**

1. Students typically receive at least one homework assignment per week. Most involve reading and writing. Some may involve research or field work. For some units of study, a larger long term project may be assigned. Specific details for these will be provided to the student.
2. Complete all required work to the best of your ability and with the goal to learn. Don't do it just to "get it over with." Take pride in your work and do your best.
3. Do your own work. You may get help from others. However, any copying, trading of answers or any other form of cheating will result in an automatic zero for those students involved.
4. Due dates will be given and posted. Assignments will be due at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated.
5. Late Assignments - Late work is not accepted for full credit. Only two late assignments are allowed per term for ½ credit and will only be accepted up until that particular unit's test. Missing assignments, even if they are never turned in, count as late assignments. **No other late work will be accepted.**
6. If absent, please request makeup work/homework through my email ([alanm@provo.edu](mailto:alanm@provo.edu)) or have a friend pick it up. It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed and complete it within the time allowed.
7. Upon returning to class after an absence, bring any completed assignments that may have come due while you were absent and pick up any work that you missed as a result of your absence.

H. **Tests (Formative & Summative Assessments)**

1. Formative assessments are given after each concept to check for understanding but do not become part of the term grade. These assessments have a direct correlation to the learning targets and success criteria.
2. Summative assessments, tests and quizzes will become part of a student's term grade.
3. Test dates will be posted at least two days in advance.
4. All tests are required and will be scored toward your grade.
5. If absent, a fair time will be given for you to make up the test, usually two days. Make-up tests will not be given during class time or during any other period. Arrange a time with the teacher to make up the test after school.
6. If you are truant on test day, you will receive a zero for the test and will not be allowed to make it up.
7. Cheating on a test will result in an automatic zero for that test with no makeup allowed.

I. **Classroom Safety**

1. Specific instructions will be given prior to each laboratory exercise. Make sure you understand and follow them.
2. Use common sense. **BE CAREFUL!**
3. No Horseplay - This may result in the loss of laboratory privileges.
4. No food is allowed in the lab.

J. **Communication**

Parents, please feel free to contact me after school by phone (801-221-9720 ex.3642). You may also contact me by

email at: [alanm@provo.edu](mailto:alanm@provo.edu) . I am usually available after school from 2:30 to 3:30 for student help and appointments with parents. Please check ahead of time to make sure I will be in my classroom.