Biology
Course Syllabus
Mrs. Norah DeBellis

Class Description & Objectives
This course is designed to teach students new material related to a variety of topics in the field of Biology. This class will emphasize the practical aspects of biology in everyday life as well as providing a solid foundation in problem solving for further study.

Biology covers the foundations of biological chemistry, cell biology, metabolism, genetics, and life processes. A good understanding of this material will provide the foundation necessary to understand material in college level courses.

Assessment:
- ✓ Tests/Quizzes 35%
- ✓ Lab write-ups 15%
- ✓ Homework/Projects/Class Participation 35%
- ✓ Final Exam 15% (comprehensive)

Tests & Quizzes
Tests will be given at the end of each chapter and will range from 50 – 100 points. If absent the day of an exam a make-up exam will be given the day you return. If you are absent the day before a test you still need to take the test with the rest of the class. Quizzes will be given periodically throughout each chapter and will be based on lectures, assigned reading, homework, and class assignments. Some quizzes may be unannounced.

Make-Up Policy
If you are absent the day of an exam/quiz, or the day an assignment is due, the exam or quiz must be taken the day you return and homework/assignments are also due the day you return. No exceptions and no late work will be accepted.

Labs
Labs are the core of biology and emphasize the content of the course. Due to the difficulty in making up labs, if you are unable to complete a lab you must complete an equal but alternative assignment. This is typically research or an essay on the topic.

Homework
The goal of homework and reading assignments are to help in the understanding of lectures, class work and labs. There will be group assignments during class, therefore completing homework and reading assignments is essential for your participation and group discussion.

For each chapter, homework assignments include: a Guided Reading Study Workbook packet, a chapter review packet, essay questions, chapter vocabulary, as well as studying nightly. In addition to these assignments there will be required research and other projects.

Student Requirements
Students are expected to come to class prepared for the day's activities. Each student needs to take and keep class notes neat and organized in a notebook or binder and is responsible for keeping chapter study guides, worksheets, and handouts throughout each semester.

Required materials

- Textbook
- Notebook, paper, folder, binder for keeping notes, worksheets, etc…
- pens and pencils
- Basic art supplies: crayons, markers or colored pencils, scissors, glue-stick
- Ruler for diagrams and in-class activities.

Classroom and School Policies
Cheating and dishonesty are contrary to the philosophy of Bishop Montgomery High School. The school interprets cheating as follows, though not limited to:

- Copying assignments or allowing another student to copy assignments in or out of class
- Giving or receiving answers to quizzes, tests and exams
- Looking at another's paper or allowing another to look at one's paper/exam/scantron

- Plagiarism
- Doing another person's work or allowing another to do one's work
- Possession of materials known to be inaccessible to students

Actions that can be construed as cheating will be dealt with as cheating and student(s) will receive a failing grade on the test, quiz, or other assignment and disciplinary actions will follow.

Please carefully review the parent student handbook for other school policies related to cell phones, tardiness, uniform policies, etc…

Fall Semester
Topic: The Nature of Life

- The Science of biology Chapter 1
- Biochemistry Chapter 2

Topic: Ecology

- The Biosphere Chapter 3
- Ecosystems and Communities Chapter 4
- Classification Chapter 18

Topic: Cell Biology

- Cell Structure and Function Chapter 7
- Photosynthesis Chapter 8
- Cellular Respiration Chapter 9
- Cell Growth and Division Chapter 1

Spring Semester
Topic: Genetics

- Introduction to Genetics Chapter 11
- DNA and RNA Chapter 12
- The Human Genome Chapter 14

Topic: The Human Body

- Nervous System Chapter 35
- Skeletal, Muscular, and Integumentary Systems Chapter 36
- Circulatory and Respiratory Systems Chapter 37
- Digestive and Excretory Systems Chapter 38
- Endocrine and Reproductive Systems Chapter 39