Welcome to Biology! At the end of this year, you will be taking a state designed end of course exam to earn your biology credit. In order to succeed on this test, we will have to work together. As your teacher my responsibility will be to introduce the standards, design lessons around the standards to aid in your learning, use formative assessments to determine your understanding of the standard and then evaluating, with the help of summative evaluations, your retention of the standards. Your responsibility, as the student, will be to come to class prepared with your notebook and writing utensils, keep an open, curious mind, ask clarifying questions, review the material nightly and give a 100% effort! I anticipate a successful year if we both fulfill our responsibilities!

**Scope of the class**

During this year we will cover: Scientific investigation process; Properties of water and macromolecules; Cells and their structures as well as numerous cell processes such as Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration, Protein synthesis, and Cell Division; Genetics and Biotechnology; Natural Selection; Classification of organisms; Nervous, Immune, and Reproductive systems of the Human Body and Ecology. We will use a variety of activities to learn all these concepts. Each week we will complete one lab activity either in class or virtual and we will have several labs during each nine weeks in which you design the lab, record the data and analyze the data as well as write up a complete lab report.

**Weighting of classes**

Each assignment will be awarded a certain number of points and will fall into one of three categories: diagnostic, formative or summative. **Diagnostics** will be weighted 0% and will be used to determine what is already known. **Formatives** will be weighted 40% of the nine weeks while **summatives** will be 60%.

**Grading policy**

You and your parents will be able to follow your grades by logging on to the Focus website. I will update grades weekly. I will typically update on a weekend so that by the following Monday your grade will reflect what you are currently earning. Please view the county’s grading policy at the following link: [www.myvolusiaschools.org/vims/Documents/Secondary Grading Guidelines.pdf](http://www.myvolusiaschools.org/vims/Documents/Secondary Grading Guidelines.pdf)
Formatives
Formatives will consist of worksheets, hand outs, video summaries, quizzes and some labs. These help me to get a “snapshot” of your understanding of the concept at that moment.

Summatives:

Notebook
We will be using an Interactive Notebook in which all of your papers minus summatives will be found on assigned pages. This is an awesome tool to use in studying for your summatives as well as your end of course exam. You are required to bring this notebook each day as well as a writing utensil such as a pencil or a blue or black ink pen. The notebook should be a 70 page spiral notebook or a 5 subject notebook. Notebooks will be turned in every two weeks.

Labs
Our class will be sharing a lab room with another science class and so will have a specific day on which we do labs. It is important that you are present in class on that day given since lab materials may be time sensitive and may not be available for after school make up sessions. Please encourage parents to make doctor, dentist and/or orthodontist appointments after school. If you do miss a lab, you will have to write a two page report on the concept we studied. We also have a certain dress code for lab day: no loose clothes, no open toed shoes! If you come to class on lab day not dressed appropriately, you will be sent to another classroom to sit until we are finished with the lab. You will also receive the alternate assignment of writing a two page report.

Tests
Summatives will consist of DIAs, tests, lab reports and projects. You will be able to re-take or re-do any DIA summative per nine weeks if you earn a 70% or less on the summative. The grades will follow the district grading scale. All test-like summatives will be fashioned after the end of course exam and will be multiple choice. The number of test items will vary depending on how many standards were taught. There will be a review study guide given prior to each test. If you earn a 70% or less, you will go through the remediation process to “earn the right to retest”. The re-testing will take place at lunch in Mrs. Rosso’s room. Failure to show up for the retake will result in keeping the other test score. If you are absent on the day of the summative, when you return you will take the summative.

Projects:
Students will have two major projects this year, one in the first semester and one in the second semester. First semester students will complete a project involving one of the human body systems and in the second semester they will complete a genetics project.

IBIS (Rosebay) Field trip
In January, the students will be spending a day at Volusia County’s Classroom located at Rosebay. Students will perform a variety of tasks/labs that are hands on opportunities. This experience aides in the student’s understanding of ecological concepts which make up 40% of the End of Course exam. Students that attend this field trip tend to succeed on the EOC. This field trip is worth 100 points in the summative category. If a student is unable to attend, there is a makeup assignment.
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1. Be prompt.

2. Be polite.

3. Be prepared.

4. Be positive.

5. Be productive.

**Negative consequences** for failing to follow the above rules will be as follows:
- Verbal warning
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If for some reason, I am absent you will be assigned a sub and will be given sub work both in the classroom and in Canvas if for some reason you are absent on that day as well. Sub work is treated as a formative and COUNTS in your grade.

**Teacher office hours/Tutoring**
I am available for tutoring or answering questions before school 8:00 -8:25 am, during lunch 12:10-12:20 pm and after school by appointment. These times are the same days the students can make up quizzes and some labs. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email. I will answer by the end of the day.
Regular Biology Syllabus, Grading Policy and Rules
2022-2023
C. Rosso
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