



8th Grade Pre-AP Biology Course Syllabus

Course Description –Rising Scholars Academy Biology is an accelerated science course geared towards meeting the standards set forth by the State of Texas and to increase the critical thinking ability of every student. It is a laboratory-oriented course which provides students an opportunity to investigate scientific concepts using the scientific method and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. This course will allow the students to develop a deeper understanding of scientific methods and concepts as described in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Resources

2015. Biology – Glencoe; McGraw Hill Education

Technology

The use of electronic devices will be permitted at the teacher's discretion.

Materials

2 Composition notebooks

Grading

Students' average will be calculated as follows:

- 40% assessments (test and quizzes)
- 35% labs and projects
- 25% homework and daily work

Homework/Daily work guidelines

Student's homework is due at the beginning of the period of the given due date. Students absent on a day homework is assigned shall be given the same amount of time to complete the assignment as the rest of the class and shall receive a due date for the next day the student returns to class. Majority of the homework will be used as an indicator of student understanding and preparation of upcoming quizzes and tests.

Lab Work

Most lab work will be a team effort. Each member of a team is expected to make a contribution in achieving the objectives. Students not contributing to the work will be documented. Each student is expected to submit individual lab reports. Participating in lab activities is a privilege. All students were instructed in the proper behavior in a science lab classroom. **If a student is asked to leave the classroom due to unacceptable behavior and/or unsafe classroom behavior, then the student will receive zero points for all missed classroom assignments that day and**

could also include administrative consequences. Administrative consequences for an infraction of the Science Safety contract may range from detention to suspension. Repeated lab safety violations may result in the loss of lab privileges.

Assessments

- A. Quizzes are designed to monitor the student's progress on regular basis and maybe announced or unannounced. Students are expected to be prepared for each quiz.
- B. Tests will be scheduled after every major topic. Tests will consist of two parts:
 - 1. Objective- MC, Matching, T/F, Fill in the Blank
 - 2. Subjective- short answer questions

Students who receive a failing grade on a quiz or test may retake an alternative quiz or test within 7 days of receiving their results BUT only after he/she has met the following conditions:

- 1. Student attends at least one tutoring session
 - 2. Teacher and student come into agreement for retest date.
 - 3. Students can achieve up to a 70%.
- C. Common Assessments- Formative and summative assessment will be given throughout the year to measure academic growth.
 - D. Semester Exams - Students are encouraged to maintain a Science notebook and keep quizzes and tests throughout the school year. **Semester exams will count 25% of the student's final grade. There is no retest for semester exams**

Projects

This course requires several major and minor projects throughout the year. Some of the projects may be online while others will be constructed by hand; however, all science students will be required to participate in a science exhibit which will take place towards the end of the year. Please make sure to use your planners to keep track of upcoming projects that are due.

Pyramid of Interventions

The objective of this class is for every student to be successful in demonstrating mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students not successfully progressing will be assisted by the pyramid of interventions. These interventions may include special class activities and assignments, required tutoring during the school day or after school, parent contact, and other interventions specific for the student.

Mr. Balli
Instructor

Mrs. C. Saucedo
Principal

Student's Signature

Parent /Guardian Signature