**Course** **information** **for** **Biology 1A**

**Instructor**: Mr. DeBlass

**Email**: deblassp@hasdk12.org

**Room:** B23

What’s going on in Bio 1A?

This course will emphasize the general principles of organism and population biology with a concentration in genetics, evolution, and diversity among organisms. Emphasis will be placed on structural and physiological adaptations for such processes and nutrition, fluid and gas exchange and hormonal regulation. An understanding of the interactions between organisms and their environment will be explored. Factors that affect the environment will be covered. Research methods and inquiry based laboratories will be emphasized.

How am I graded in this class?

**30% PARTICIPATION**

**Behavior** – A large part of your participation grade will be behavior in class. RESPECT between other classmates and the teacher is important in my classroom, and any unacceptable behavior/language after verbal warnings will result in points lost. RESPECT in this classroom is the MOST important rule to follow.

**LOSS OF POINTS WILL INCLUDE (you cannot get points back once lost):**

Cursing audibly

Sleeping

Late to class

Unprepared for class (missing pencil, note sheet, PDN, etc.)

Not following instructions

\*\*Each time you commit the penalty, the more likely you are to lose more points

**PDNs** – Almost every day a PDN will be on the board, on your PDN sheet, you write the question and answer….IT IS NOT GRADED FOR CORRECTNESS. If you are absent a day, it is your responsibility to get the PDN from yesterday and fill it in. If you don’t hand them in on time, you have until the next turn-in date to get them to me, otherwise it is a ZERO.

**In-class activities** – Some in-class activities will be graded based off of your willingness to do them. Examples would include any handout assigned or homework assignments. These are graded based off of how many you have completed versus how many have been assigned.

EXAMPLE: Halfway through the quarter we have 4 in-class and homework grades. You did not complete one of the homework assignments; this gives you 3/4 completed, and thus a 75% for the grade.

**\*\*\*\*\*YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU MISSED THE PREVIOUS DAY, GETTING THE INFORMATION, AND OBTAINING ANY REQUIRED MATERIALS FROM ME IF YOU ARE ABSENT\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\*If you are absent one day, you have one day from the time you come back to get me the work. If absent two, you have two, etc.**

Example: You are absent on Wednesday, you are back Thursday, you have until Friday to get me the work OR IT IS A ZERO. NO LATE WORK will be accepted.

\*\*\*\*\*Grade scale: check (fully completed) half check (partially completed) no check (not completed)

**25% TESTS**

Each unit covered will have a test at the end of it. Always announced with plenty of time to study, and always accompanied with a review game/day before.

\*\*\*\*IF YOU ARE ABSENT THE DAY OF A TEST, YOU TAKE **IT ON THE DAY YOU COME BACK** OR IT IS A **ZERO**

\*\*\*\*IF YOU ARE ABSENT THE DAY BEFORE A TEST, YOU TAKE THE TEST **ON THE DAY OF THE TEST**

\*\*\*\*THE ONLY CASE YOU GET EXTRA DAYS TO TAKE A TEST IS IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A STUDY GUIDE, HAVE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE (funeral/doctor) OR HAVE BEEN ABSENT MULTIPLE DAYS.

**20% QUIZZES AND LABS**

Within units there will be quizzes given on important material; they are always announced. SAME RULES APPLY TO QUIZZES AS TESTS. Labs will be conducted throughout the course, lab reports will be used to gauge what you learned, and will be graded by groups. Unfortunately, labs CANNOT be made up because materials will only be present for that day or days.

**10% PROJECTS**

Each quarter usually consists of a couple smaller projects, and/or one larger project. Rubrics, or grading explanations, will be provided.

**15% MIDTERM/FINAL**

At the end of each quarter, there is a cumulative exam that will be worth the remaining 15% of your grade. Study guides are provided for these tests.

What do I need to bring to class?

For each class, students will need **a writing instrument, a notebook**, and a **folder** is encouraged to keep graded materials and any handouts in. (Failure to be prepared could result in loss of points) **PDN** sheets, and **note** **sheets** (for taking notes) will need to be brought each day as well.

Extra Credit

Nope

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| **Topics** |
| UNIT 1: Basics of biology. Topics include the scientific method, data interpretation, characteristics of life, organization of life as well as structure and function of living things |
| UNIT 2: Basics of genetics. Topics include Mendelian genetics, non-Mendelian genetics, mutations, and genetic engineering |
| UNIT 3: Mechanisms of evolution. Topics include the theories on how speciation has occurred for life on Earth. |
| UNIT 4: Evidence of evolution. Discussion and introduction to the supportive evidence to the theory of evolution. |
| UNIT 5: Ecology 1. Topics include ecosystems and their interactions, populations, and biomes |
| UNIT 6: Ecology 2. Topics include cycles of matter, environmental response to change, and human impacts on the environment. |

Units by quarter:

Q1 and Q3: units 1,2,3

Q2 and Q4: units 4,5,6

First assignment: Sign below (guardian and student). By signing you agree that you understand the rules and regulations listed above. Turn in.

Student Signature Guardian Signature (Witness)