

MRS. BREST'S HONORS BIOLOGY CLASS INFORMATION PACKET



Biology is a required course for all freshmen at Plainfield North High School. I look forward to working with you as we uncover the true nature of our world!!!

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

I expect you to...

- Be in class on time.
- Bring required materials.
- Be prepared to learn.
- Complete the assigned classwork / homework.
- Turn in work on time.
- Follow the classroom rules.
- Try your best.
- **ASK QUESTIONS!!!!!!**

SUPPLIES

Please bring the following things with you EVERY DAY:

- Textbook
- A BINDER
- loose leaf paper
- pen and pencil
- assignment notebook
- **CURIOSITY!!!!!!**

Please keep the following items at home for use on homework and labs:

- colored pencils
- index cards
- metric ruler
- graph paper

CLASSROOM RULES

1. ALL rules listed in your school handbook apply in the biology classroom!
2. Be in the room before the bell rings. Detentions will be issued if you are tardy.
3. ALWAYS follow directions.
4. Do not talk without permission.
5. Clean up after yourself.
6. Do your own work! Failure to do so results in a ZERO for all students involved (if working in a group).

LATE WORK POLICY

- Late work is accepted for a 10% deduction. The later the work the larger the point deduction. Remember – TALK TO ME!

ABSENCES

- Pick up any work from the absent BINDER to find out what you missed.
- It is your responsibility to retrieve, complete and submit missed work.
- Make arrangements with me to make up missed labs and tests.
 - The expectation is that you contact me the next day you are in class to make arrangements
- You have the number of days absent plus one to make up absent work for full credit.

EXTRA ASSISTANCE

Biology can be challenging at times, but don't give up. Here are some options for help.

- **Teacher**
 - I will be happy to assist you before and after school when needed. Please check with me ahead of time to make sure I am available.
- **Peer Tutors**

EVALUATION

Quarter grades are based on the following:

- Daily Classwork/Homework
- Labs
- Quizzes
- Unit Outcome Tests
- Unit Abstracts
- Semester Tests

ABSTRACTS

Each unit you will be given an article to read and summarize. You may choose your own SCIENTIFIC paper to read instead, but it must be approved by me. The are graded as an assessment.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit will be offered at least one time during each semester. Extra credit is ONLY Available to students that have all classwork completed!!

GRADING SCALE

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 59 and below

CONSEQUENCES

If you fail to meet expectations or follow rules, consequences may include:

- Verbal reminder
- Phone call or email home
- Referral to dean

REWARDS

If you meet expectations and follow rules, benefits may include:

- Time to work on assignments
- Ability to work with classmates
- Labs, movies, and games
- Extra credit opportunities

Lab Safety Rules

Working in a science laboratory is normally very safe. To ensure your personal safety and the safety of others, you need to reduce the risks associated with laboratory work. Risk in science lab can come from either physical or chemical hazards. By examining these hazards, you will understand why the following rules have been developed for working in scientific laboratories. Chemical hazards result from exposure to hazardous chemicals from absorption through skin or eye contact, inhalation, ingestion, or injection. Physical hazards include falls, cuts, eye injury, electrical shock and fire.

1. **Protect your eyes.** Appropriate eye protection must be worn at all times in the laboratory. Chemical splash goggles provide maximum protection from splashes. Contact lenses should not normally be worn unless approved by your teacher. Unventilated goggles are essential if contact lenses are to be worn.
2. **Wear appropriate protective clothing.** Chemicals can burn or irritate the skin. Some chemicals are readily absorbed through the skin and enter your body. Your clothing should cover your legs to the knees. Shorts are not appropriate for the laboratory. Laboratory coats or aprons can protect good clothing. Loose clothing should not be worn because it may dip into chemicals or fall into a flame and catch fire.
3. **Wear shoes that cover your feet.** Sandals and open-toed shoes do not protect your feet from broken glass that is frequently found in science laboratories. Also, leather shoes protect your feet from chemical spills, canvas shoes do not.
4. **Do not apply cosmetics, eat, or drink in the laboratory.** These activities are ways by which you can accidentally ingest harmful chemical.
5. **Do not taste any chemical.**
6. **Do not smell chemicals directly.** Smell a chemical only if your teacher specifically tells you to do so, then use your hand to fan the vapor to your nose.
7. **Do not pipet solutions by mouth.** Use a rubber suction bulb or some other device to fill a pipet.
8. **Wash your hands with soap and water before leaving the laboratory.** This rule applies even if you have been wearing gloves.
9. **Know the hazards of the materials being used.** Read labels carefully to make sure you are using the right chemical. Know how to interpret data from a MSDS. Remember that hot and cold glassware look the same, so allow ample time for cooling.
10. **Tie back loose hair.** Dangling hair can fall into a Bunsen burner and catch on fire or can fall into a chemical solution.
11. **Know the safety equipment.** Know the location of eyewash fountains, safety showers, fire blankets, fire extinguishers, first-aid kits and emergency exits. Know how to respond in case of an emergency. Know how to use the safety equipment.
12. **Carry out only the experiments assigned by your teacher.** Never perform unauthorized experiments.
13. **Never remove chemicals from the laboratory.**
14. **Never work in the laboratory unless authorized to do so by your teacher.** Never work alone in the laboratory. In case of a problem, you may need another person to prevent injury or even save your life.
15. **Never engage in horseplay, games, or pranks in the laboratory.** Remember that the laboratory is a place for serious work. Careless behavior can endanger yourself and others and will not be tolerated.
16. **Demonstrate safe behavior.** Obey all safety instructions given by your instructor or found in your experimental procedure. Clean up spills immediately if you know how. If you are uncertain how to clean up a spill or if a large spill occurs, notify your instructor immediately. Before leaving the laboratory, return equipment and chemicals to their proper places. Clean up your work area.
17. **Dispose of all waste materials according to your teacher's instructions.**
18. **Report any accidents or unsafe conditions to your teacher immediately.**



Biology Course Outline

1st Semester

- Unit 1 Structure and Function of Life
- What is life?
 - What molecules and processes regulate life?
- Unit 2 Energy Flow in Ecosystems
- Where does energy for life come from?
 - How does energy circulate among living things?
- Unit 3 Ecology
- How do living things interact with each other?
 - How do living things interact with their environment?

2nd Semester

- Unit 4 Molecular Genetics
- What is genetics?
 - What molecules influence our genetics?
- Unit 5 Inheritance
- How do we pass characteristics to the next generation?
- Unit 6 Common Ancestry
- What evidence is there for evolution and common ancestry?
- Unit 7 Mechanisms of Evolution
- What causes evolution?
 - How does evolution effect populations?

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am looking forward to having your child in my class!!

Please take some time to review the syllabus and course outline with your child.

Then, if you could both please complete and have the student return the attached form.

If you have any questions or concerns (now or in the future), please feel free to contact me anytime using the information below.

I am confident that if we work together your student will be successful this year!!!!

Sincerely,

Ginger Brest
gbrest@psd202.org
815-609-8506 ext 5942

Lab Safety Contract

Students will be removed from the laboratory by the teacher if: their personal appearance or dress is such that they can cause injury or distraction to themselves or others; they are behaving in such a manner that they can cause injury to themselves or others; they are not following the prescribed safety rules for the laboratory or the particular activity being conducted; they have not completed the pre-lab activities that are needed for them to work safely in the laboratory.

I, _____, a student in science at PLAINFIELD NORTH HIGH SCHOOL, have read and agree to follow all safety rules and regulations given by my teacher and outlined in the FLINN SAFETY CONTRACT. I realize that following these rules is necessary to ensure the safe operation of the school laboratory and to provide a safe environment not only for myself, but for my fellow students and my teachers as well. I will, therefore, cooperate fully with teachers and students to ensure that all of us work safely. I will act responsibly to look for possible safety hazards and will immediately point out these hazards to the instructor. I realize that, as a student, much of the responsibility for safety is in my hands. I understand that violation of these rules may result in the loss of laboratory privileges and possible disciplinary measures.

Student Signature _____ date _____

Parent/ Guardian Signature _____ date _____

BIOLOGY – Acknowledgement of Classroom Expectations

I have read and understand the classroom expectations for biology class. I understand that by signing, I am agreeing that it is the student's responsibility to follow the expectations detailed in the information packet provided.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Parent daytime phone number: _____

Parent email address: _____