**Biology 1**

Miami Beach Senior High

Instructor: Ms. Jennifer Silveira

Room: 412

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Biology is a laboratory science course that focuses on the study of life by examining the concepts of ecology, evolution, classification, the human body, reproduction, genetics, and biochemistry. This class will investigate the relationship between structure and function from molecules to organisms and systems, the interdependence and interactions of biotic and abiotic components of the environment, and mechanisms that maintain continuity and lead to changes in populations over time.

**EOC EXAM:**

At the closing of this course, students will be required to take the state mandated end of course exam (EOC). The Biology 1 EOC Assessment measures student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS), as outlined in the Biology 1 course description. The EOC score, as of 2013-2014, is calculated as 30% of the student's final GPA for the course. More information about the EOC exam can be found on the Florida Department of Education's website (fldoe.org).

**EVALUATION:**

Exams 35%

Laboratories and projects 30%

Homework and classwork 25%

Other participation 10%

**MATERIALS:** All students should have the following items with them in classroom on a daily basis; an electronic device with internet access, a minimum of two writing utensils, lined paper, graph paper, and colored pencils. All students are required to have a Schoology account where they will turn in assignments. Students need to make use of the technology offered in their portals including, but not limited to, their online textbook resources and their access to gradebook.

**CLASSROOM RULES**: Students are expected to follow all district and school rules. Specific classroom rules are posted at the front of the classroom. Special rules will be issued for labs. Students are expected to keep their work areas organized and clean. Failure to do so could result in poor participation grades that may lower their overall academic grade in the class. Every person involved in my classroom will be expected to respect all aspects of the other people in the classroom whether it be race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion and ability. I encourage all students to speak to me directly or to other teachers and administrators if they feel disrespected or unsafe at MBSH.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Assignments will be posted on the class Schoology website. The assignments that are collected may be one of the following: do nows, home learning, classwork, quizzes, tests, projects, and/or group work. Assignments will be turned in during class, through Schoology, Google Drive, on TurnItIn.com, or through DropBox.

**ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to be in class every day. Refer to the MDCPS attendance regulations. If you are tardy to class you are expected to gather all information that you have missed from your peers.

**MAKE-UP WORK:** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up any missing work. Make-up work must be turned in at the beginning of the following class with an accompanying admit to class. The assignment should have been uploaded to the class website and it is your responsibility to obtain it. If you are absent for an exam, it is your responsibility to see me immediately upon return to school to schedule a makeup date.

**PARENTAL CONTACT:** Parents should acquire access to the grade book portal provided to them by MDCPS; in order to do so you may contact the Parent Resource Center at our school. The grade book should serve as a daily review of the student’s progress in the class. You may also register for an Edmodo account should you choose to participate in our classroom’s online community. Please also be sure that accurate contact information has been provided to the main office should any additional contact be necessary. Parents are welcome to contact me at the email address and/ or telephone number provided above should they have any questions, comments or concerns. Additionally, a progress report will be sent out four times a year (mid-way through a semester) and a report card will follow at the end of each semester. It is the student’s responsibility to present you with these documents.

**STUDENT CONTACT:** Students are welcomed and encouraged to schedule an appointment to discuss grades, performance, and/or problems in class. Class time is not the time to discuss your personal progress; I will be available before school, after school, and during lunch most days with an appointment. Students are also encouraged to use the Schoology website, or email to communicate questions and concerns.

**CHEATING:** Cheating is defined as “the giving or receiving of unauthorized information to gain an unfair advantage in your work.” Cheating includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as “the act of taking the language, thoughts, or ideas of another, including works of art and music, and presenting them as one’s own without acknowledgement.” Consequences of cheating or plagiarism include receiving an F on the assignment and being referred to the appropriate assistant principal.