

Biology 2010-2011 San Dieguito High School Academy

To: Biology students and their parents

From: Jocelyn Broemmelsiek, Trish Hovey, Cathy Ramos, and Mike Santos (Instructors)

Welcome to Biology, a laboratory course in life science, which satisfies one year of the two years of science required for high school graduation (if only two years of science are taken, one year must be in grade 9-10 and the other year in grades 11-12). This course also satisfies one year of the University of California admissions requirements. The U.C. guidelines state that two years of laboratory science are required for admission and that three years are recommended, one of these years of science may be taken in ninth grade. The U.C. further recommends that the science course work cover at least one year in each of the disciplines of biology, chemistry, and physics.

This course moves quickly, and it covers a lot of material that is entirely new to the students. Students' grades are a reflection of their performance on tests, projects, presentations, laboratories, and written work.

Grading Policy: Grades are based on total points.

Grading percentages:	A 89.5%-100%	D 59.5%-69.4%
	B 79.5-89.4%	F 0%-59.4%
	C 69.5-79.4%	

Tests and quizzes account for approximately 40-50% of the grade. The balance of the grade includes laboratories, homework, projects, debates, other reports, and written work. We try to provide make-up labs or other make-up experiences (field work, etc.). Also, laboratories need to be made up within the same week. If a student misses many labs it could easily hurt the student's grade. For this reason students are encouraged not to schedule dental appointments, trips, etc. that interfere with attendance.

Homework: Homework will consist of reading the text, studying vocabulary, answering questions, completing lab reports, studying for tests and quizzes, and completing projects (which will include library research). Laboratory reports are often completed at home. There will be at least one lab week, although it's usually more like 3-4, with some lasting over several weeks. Work on projects will be completed outside regular class time, at home or after school in the science building. Students will be given a calendar of each month's assignments (Note: the due dates may have to be adjusted if a lab or other activity runs longer than expected). The homework will also be posted on the blackboard each day.

Notebook and supplies: Each day students will bring the following materials to class: pen or pencil (We have no preference, except for formal papers which must be done in ink or typed), Interactive Notebook (spiral), and as an option, a calculator. The notebook will be turned in for grading (with two days notice). Students need to save every paper as the previous work may be used for subsequent labs, to prepare for tests (occasionally tests are open note), and as a record of completed work.

Projects: All biology students will do a research paper first quarter and a science fair project or an elementary project the second quarter. **ALL PROJECTS MUST RECEIVE TEACHER APPROVAL BEFORE STUDENTS MAY BEGIN.** Projects without prior approval may not be entered into the school fair and may possibly receive a lower grade or no grade at all. More information will be given in class.

Absences: Students who are absent on a laboratory day may make the missed work by attending a replacement laboratory held after school or during lunch. Students who have missed a lab should make arrangements to attend. Tests that have been missed can be made up within a one week time frame before school at 7:20 a.m., lunch, or directly after school (students need to make an appointment for both these times). It is up to the students to find out what work was missed during an absence and to make up the work. A study partner (in addition to homework calendar) is an excellent way to be sure you know what was missed. Lab reports are due the day after a student returns from an absence. Late homework cannot receive more than half credit. Students with legitimate absences will be given an alternate assignment in place of missed work.

Behavior

The Science Department has adopted a policy of mutual respect.

Students are expected to be courteous, and to work on the assigned task. Behavior that interferes with other students or the instructor will not be tolerated. Students who need more than a reminder will be assigned after school detention with Mrs Broemmelsiek in room 23, Mrs. Hovey in room 22, Mrs. Ramos in room 20 or Mr. Santos in room 21. Parents will be notified promptly if a student does not respond to these measures.

Electronic Equipment - All electronic equipment such as cell phones, MP3 or CD Players, and games should be turned off during class. Failure to do this will result in confiscation. Students will need to retrieve the equipment from the Assistant Principal's office after school.

Tardies -Attendance is done by seating chart. If a student is not in the assigned seat when the bell rings, it is considered a tardy.

Laboratory Safety

Any activity or action that risks the safety of any individual in the class or lab will result in a failure for that laboratory, and an immediate referral to the Assistant Principal for suspension (if warranted by the seriousness of the offense, permanent removal of the student from the class may result). It is extremely important that the laboratory be a safe place for all of us to work and learn. Safe laboratory practices will be taught in class. The following items deserve to be mentioned here:

- 1) Shoes that enclose the foot are safer than sandals.
- 2) Eye protection for some experiments is required. We provide goggles which are sanitized with ultraviolet light. Some people have suggested that maximum protection from diseases of the hair, skin or eye would be ensured if students purchased their own goggles.
- 3) Contact lenses could delay the rapid removal of hazardous liquids or fumes from the eye in the event of an accident. Some safety consultants have suggested that contact lenses not be worn in the laboratory.

Study of Anatomy and Physiology

The first major unit we will study this year is comparative anatomy and physiology. A major portion of this unit involves dissection of a fetal pig and an invertebrate. The use of these organisms closely follows state guidelines and those of the University of California for expected background for entering freshmen. Dissection has been a major aide in the study of anatomy and physiology since the time of Aristotle. the interrelationship of organs and organ systems, the uniqueness of every organism, and the incredible complexity of any organism, can be best demonstrated by direct experience. In our classes we treat the matter with sensitivity and respect for all organisms. The fetal pigs are an excellent choice for study as their anatomy closely follows our own and these organisms were

salvaged from meat packing houses where the sows were used for food. Students will work in pairs, may select their own partner for this lab, and may wear gloves.

Study of Reproduction

As part of the study of anatomy and physiology, we will study reproduction in both humans and other organisms. We may possibly show the video from the PBS NOVA series entitled A Miracle of Life, many of you may have already seen this at home. This is a very comprehensive treatment of human reproduction and includes the actual birth of a baby. If you have concerns about the content of this video or the course, please indicate on the parent signature form. We can arrange a preview of this excellent film for you after school one day or discuss this issue with you by phone.

Every student is capable of earning a good grade. We don't promise it will be easy, but we do promise it will be worthwhile and quite possibly fun. It is requested that both the parent and the student sign the attached parent signature form and return it to me. Also please initial the designated sections of this letter with both of your initials (student and parent) indicating that you read them.

Thank you for reading all this.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Broemmelsiek, Trish Hovey, Cathy Ramos, and Mike Santos

CUT HERE

Date: _____

My student, _____ and I have read the biology course guidelines.

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

We have no concerns at this time.....

OR

Could the teacher call us at _____(phone number) to discuss
concerns that we may have?.....

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____