

Biology 2015-2016

Ms. Amanda Bliss Rm. 354 ext. 2354 abliss@sludsd.us

<http://blisslhs.weebly.com>

Course Description and Objectives

Biology is a laboratory science course that covers the study of living things. Biology focuses on the study of life by examining the fundamental concepts of cellular biology, genetics, ecology, evolution and physiology. The scientific process and laboratory skills are emphasized along with biology's connections to other scientific disciplines.

Textbook and Materials

-TEXTBOOK - Prentice Hall Biology

-Students **do not need** to bring their book to class unless they want to or are told specifically to do so the day before.

-Students need to bring the following items to class EVERYDAY:

Required Materials

- A whole binder devoted just to this class
- A pocket folder for this class only
- A pencil pouch containing:
 - 2 pens (blue or black ink only)
 - 2 pencils
 - One or more highlighters of any color
 - An eraser
 - Colored Pencils
 - Glue stick or tape
 - Scissors
- College-ruled loose-leaf paper

Optional Materials

- Calculator
- Pencil Sharpener
- Ruler
- Liquid Paper/White-out pen
- Post-it Notes (for talking-to-the-text activities)
- Pocket Dictionary (Useful for write-to-learn and reading assignments)

Your materials will be due on MONDAY, AUGUST 24th. You must have all required materials in order to participate in Monday's lesson.

Grades

A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= 0-59%

Your grade is based on a point system and you will be required to monitor your own grades throughout the year. Assignments will be divided into one of 2 categories. Assessments, which include tests, quizzes and projects is 60% of your grade the other 40% comes from classwork, homework and the development of 21st Century Skills. Your grade can be calculated at any point by dividing your total points by the total points possible in the class for each category then weighting them accordingly.

Academic Honesty

It is expected that students will use genuine, sincere, and fair means for the accomplishment of the tests, tasks, or projects from which evaluations of progress shall be determined. Students found plagiarizing, copying or cheating in any way will receive **automatic zeros** and have phone calls made to their parents. In addition, a write-up of the incident will be given to the student's counselor and administration. Students will only be able to recover points if the teacher and administration deem appropriate through the completion of an alternate assignment. This may be refused at teacher discretion. Obvious or repeated offenses will result in a failing grade for the quarter or semester depending on the nature of the incident.

Policies

Entering and Leaving the Classroom

Students are expected to be in their seats before the bell rings. Handouts for the day are to be picked up on the way into class. Students will have 2-4 minutes to complete their warm-ups, copy down homework and read the agenda board. At the end of the period there is a 5-15 minute clean up time. The students are expected to complete all cleanup tasks then stay in their seats until they are excused. The teacher dismisses the classroom, not the bell.

Rules/Consequences

Class rules are basic and include all the school-wide rules. As a general guide; come to class prepared and on time, respect yourself and your classmates, do not speak when the teacher or someone else is speaking, and do not eat, chew gum or drink in class (water is ok). Students will be given a verbal reminder the first time they break a rule. Students will be given a lunch detention the second time, an after school detention the third time and finally a referral to the Principal's office/parent call home the fourth time.

Homework

Homework is due at the beginning of class. In most cases homework not turned/checked in on time will not be accepted with out a late work form and additional assignment. Homework is mandatory to participate in some lab assignments.

Cell Phone and Electronics

Students are not allowed to use their cell phones or other electronics during class hours unless given explicit permission by the teacher as part of classwork. Electronics and earbuds or headphones that are seen or heard during class will be confiscated and turned into the principal's office for the student or parent to pick up after school.

Bathroom

Students can use the bathroom 3 times per semester. Passes will be tracked. After 3 visits a student will need to schedule a meeting outside of class time to request further passes.

Notes

Interactive notes are produced in-class, and contain key assignments, test corrections, illustrations, and Cornell Notes. Students are expected to keep their notes neat and up-to-date. All work will be organized into units. Your work should be kept in the order indicated in your Table of Contents for each unit. All assignments including Cornell notes should be completed before note collection, which happens 1-2 times per unit.

Classwork

Completion of classwork in the time given is essential for success. Students will always be given plenty of time to complete work in class.

Absences

Students are expected to find out everything they missed while out of class. Students are expected to check the Assignment Bin in order to see the previous assignments and check the class website for instructions. The STUDENT, not the teacher, is responsible for finding out what he or she missed while absent. When turning in work from days missed, complete a late work form, and write the word ABSENT in the upper right hand corner of the actual assignment. If you know you will be absent ahead of time, see Ms. Bliss at the end of class or during student work time to make a work plan as soon as possible. Again, the STUDENT, not the teacher, is responsible for finding out what he or she missed while absent.

Entering The Classroom Tardy

Students who show up late must enter the classroom without speaking. If you have a pass, place it on Ms. Bliss's desk. Stand by the door until the teacher gives you permission to get seated or you may end up marked absent. If the teacher is busy, come in quietly and get started but be sure to inform Ms. Bliss of your arrival as soon as possible so your attendance is noted. Once seated, complete your normal entrance procedure. Students MUST copy the warm-up question from a fellow classmate and answer it on their own for credit.

Help and Class Resources

Students are encouraged to seek help from the teacher if they feel like they need clarification or better understanding. Help can come from the following sources:

- **LUNCH OR AFTER SCHOOL:** The teacher can be reached by making a tutoring appointment during office hours, via email abliss@slusd.us, by phone or by public teacher Facebook page www.facebook.com/MsBlissSLHS.
- **CLASS WEBSITE:** <http://blissls.weebly.com/> has general information about the class including a course description, links to the daily agenda, homework and assignments lists, class wish lists, announcements and other useful resources.
- **CLASS FACEBOOK PAGE:** <http://www.facebook.com/MsBlissSLHS> Is a convenient way to receive announcements and ask questions that may help get a quick reply during odd hours.
- **OFFICE HOURS:** May change depending Ms. Bliss's schedule. Students may come for help at other times but will have to check if I am available.
 - **Tuesday**
 - **Lunch** for AVID students only
 - **After School** for all students 3:15-3:45
 - **Thursday**
 - **Lunch** for all students

Biology

Ms. Amanda Bliss
abliss@slusd.us

Korematsu Room 354
Phone: (510) 618-4600 ext. 2354

Dear Student,

Welcome to Biology and congratulations! You have now entered a new stage in your education. High school is a time to discover many interests and develop skills that will assist you in your life and career after school. The course is structured to help you learn biology concepts and gain deeper insights into the nature of science while getting ahead on you're A-G requirements. This course will require self-discipline and consistent effort for you to succeed. Please be sure to communicate your progress with me whenever the pace of class feels too fast or too slow. This will not change the course but will give me, your teacher and mentor, the opportunity to advise you on how to get the most out of your time here in Honors Biology.

I am a strong believer that education is a **"team effort."** If everyone does their part, our classroom can be a supportive, positive and rigorous academic environment. Please read the course description, list of expectations and policies attached. I am committed to making this year both a stimulating and enjoyable learning experience. I am always willing to help anyone who might be struggling or having difficulty, but I expect you to be responsible for your own learning and behavior, give your best effort, and do your part in the learning process. **Thank you for reading this letter; please get a parent or guardian to fill out the section below and turn it in by Friday 8/26.**

Parents and Guardians, I invite you to log onto the class website and complete the Parent Survey located at <http://www.sanleandro.k12.ca.us/Page/4252>

Also, please complete bottom of this page to indicate that you have read and understood the course description and policies.

Parent/Guardian Signature

date

Student Name

date

Please add the BEST way to contact you:

Print Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please write anything else you would like me to know about your student below or on an attached paper.