**Biology – Ms. Hanks**

**Pacific Cascade Middle School**

**Course Expectations, 2019-20**

**My contact information:**

Phone: 425-837-5982

Classroom: 2306

E-mail: lillywhitem@issaquah.wednet.edu

Website: [www.darwinia.weebly.com](http://www.darwinia.weebly.com) or access through PCMS>Staff>Science>Meredith Hanks Lillywhite

Help-session/Make-ups: By appointment

**Course Description:**

Welcome to Biology! I’m so glad you’ve landed in my classroom where you will engage in the study of LIFE. Throughout this year, you will investigate and learn about what makes up life, how living organisms are similar or different from each other, and how they interact with each other and their environments. The units covered in this class include: 1) The Nature of Life, 2) Ecology, 3) Cells, 4) Genetics, 5) Biological Evolution, and 6) Diversity of Life. This course is designed to help you learn through lectures, laboratory work, projects, and activities. To be successful in Biology, it is very important that you try to be present daily since it is a hands-on course.

**Our textbook:**

Miller & Levine. Biology. Boston, MA: Pearson, 2019.

The textbook may be accessed online through ClassLink (<https://launchpad.classlink.com/Issaquah>). ClassLink is a Launchpad for students to access online district curriculum and tools. You may be prompted to install an extension to your browser on first login. Please use a current browser. Login to ClassLink with your network username (first four letters of your last name, first three of your first name, and your two-digit graduation year). Your password is the same as your regular network password used to log onto a school computer. Click on the Pearson icon within ClassLink. You will then be taken to a Pearson webpage where you will click on Pearson Realize.

In addition to the textbook, you will be maintaining a spiral bound notebook which you may obtain from the PCMS bookkeeper. This will become a very valuable resource. You will complete all practice assignments and labs in your science notebook as well as organize all notes.

**Required Class Materials:**

Each day, please bring the following to class:

* Pencils and erasers
* Pens (blue/black, and one other easily readable color)
* Science notebook (college-ruled, 100 pages; obtained from the bookkeeper)
* Student Planner (optional but an organizer/calendar is recommended)
* Lab goggles on lab days (obtained from the bookkeeper)

**Labs/Activities/Projects/Homework:**

Labs, activities, and projects for this class will be completed in your science notebook which should be well-maintained and organized at all times. In addition, there will be some activities which you will need to complete online using the Pearson Realize curriculum features OR through OneDrive. Homework will be graded for completion and will show in Skyward as a “no count” and may include comments to inform parents/guardians of student habits. Incomplete homework will show as “missing” in Skyward.

**Quizzes and Tests:**

Quizzes are used to provide information to both me (teacher) and you (student) about your progress in this class. For that matter, quizzes will not be graded.

Tests, unlike quizzes, are used to evaluate your mastery of content and skills. Practice assignments, quizzes, and lectures will factor into your ability to master what you will ultimately be tested on. Students who score below 80% will have the opportunity to re-take the unit test (one try only) before the end of the current unit following the re-take unit. Students may earn up to an 80% on the retest. **All work** for the unit must be submitted before taking the retake to show that effort was made to master the content.

**Final:**

Students will take two finals which will align with the high school schedule. The first will be in mid-January and the second in June. The first final will only cover material learned in the first semester and the second final will only cover material learned in the second semester.

**Grading Policy:**

Since this is a high school level class, I have aligned my grading policies as best I could with the Biology department at Issaquah High School. Students can expect the same grading policy when they reach Chemistry at Issaquah High.

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| **Grading Category** | **1st Trimester** | **2nd Trimester** | **3rd Trimester** |
| **Process**  (Notebook organization, turn-in, homework completion, class participation) | **0%**  **w/feedback in Skyward** | **0%**  **w/feedback in Skyward** | **0%**  **w/feedback in Skyward** |
| **Progress**  (quizzes, some homework, some labs) | **0%**  **w/feedback in Skyward** | **0%**  **w/feedback in Skyward** | **0%**  **w/feedback in Skyward** |
| **Product - Labs/Activities/Projects**  (includes most labs, special activities, and large projects) | **25%** | **25%** | **25%** |
| **Product - Summative**  (Unit tests and final) | **75%** | **75%** | **75%** |

**Absences:**

You are expected to attend class every day. Should you happen to miss any class days, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes or information that you missed. You can do this by visiting the 1) class website, 2) getting assignments from the “Absent” organizer, and by 3) asking a fellow student. **Please do not approach me unless you have completed the above three.**

The timeline for making up assignments is as follows: 1-day excused absence = 1 day to make up work after student returns, 5-day excused absence = 5 days to make up work after student returns. If you are absent on the due date, the work is due on the day you return to class. **All quizzes or tests missed due to absences must be taken within 2 days of you returning to class.**

**Academic Integrity:**

Working together is encouraged. However, working together and directly copying or paraphrasing someone else’s work is considered cheating. Even if an assignment is completed cooperatively, be sure to accurately show what YOU know on the assignment, not what someone else knows.

**Extra Help:**

If you need extra help, please come see me. I will be available by appointment only. Please remember that it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to come see me to make up assignments, quizzes, or tests that you missed on the days you were absent. These will generally need to be made up after school. Please note there is an after school activity bus which runs Mon-Thurs and leaves PCMS at 4:15.

**Biology Syllabus Acknowledgement of Receipt (Hanks)**

2019-2020

Directions: Please fill out this form, detach it from the syllabus, and submit it to the teacher by the designated due date.

I have read the course expectations for biology and understand my responsibilities in this class.

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| Student name (printed) | Student signature | Class Period |

Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I would appreciate if you could please provide some contact information.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parent/guardian #1 name | Parent/guardian #2 name |
| e-mail address | e-mail address |
| Best phone | Best phone |

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| --- |
| Anything else that I should know as a partner in your child’s education? |

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read and gone over this with your child. Thank you!

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| Signature of parent | Date |