

## Academic Expectations

General Biology/Fletcher

**GRADES** are an indication of how well each student has demonstrated mastery of the concepts and developed the academic skills that have been the focus of class work. Grades also reflect growth and effort. Graded work (for example tests and quizzes, in-class exercises and participation, and lab reports) is produced by the student and used to determine a final grade.

Throughout the semester students earn points - grades - reflecting the quality of work done on each assignment. The total earned points divided by the total available points gives a percentage grade, which is then translated into a letter grade, according to traditional criteria (100 - 90% = A, 89 - 80% = B, and so on). Students earning below 60% for all work (letter grade F) do not receive credit for the semester and must repeat it.

An example of how a grade evolves:

<i>Test 1</i>	<i>Lab Report #1</i>	<i>Class Activity #1</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Current Grade</i>
88 earned points	+ 34 e. p.	+ 9 e.p.	= 131 e.p.	= 87.3% = B+
100 available points	40 a. p.	10 a. p.	150 a.p.	

Typically, points are distributed as described below.

Unit Tests	23%
In class work (includes participation and lab work)	65%
Cumulative Semester Final	12%

### Students must be aware of several key points in order to maximize success!

1. **Keeping Track:** Students are responsible for keeping track of their own grade as each semester proceeds. This is most easily done by checking the biology grades regularly posted on each student's gradebook page. Concerns about grades should be discussed with the teacher in a timely fashion. (*Parents may contact the teacher about grades at any time of course*).

2. **Extra Credit:** Because of department policy I am not able to offer students significant or individual extra credit, so please do not ask me to do so.

3. **Tutoring:** I am happy to help students better understand material or catch up during advisory periods or after school by appointment.

4. **In-Class Work:** Virtually all graded work is done in class (except test preparation) so the expectation is that all work will be turned in and earn a grade. If a student falls behind in class, advisory periods and other times are available for catch-up work.

5. **Absences:** Excused absences are of course perfectly acceptable. If absent, students are expected to make up missed work unless it is excused by the teacher. Students who have been absent should look over the day's presentation slides on the teacher's webpage or where posted. Advisory period is the best time to talk with the teacher about missed work, but students can also email the teacher or communicate in other ways for help.

Credit cannot be earned if a student's absence is unexcused.

**A grade in a single class is not the most important thing in life, but all of your grades together do reflect how well you have succeeded at the job of "being a student" here in high school. How well you succeed at this job might have profound effects upon certain aspects of your future. In addition, some activities (sports activities, some club activities, etc.) have minimum grade requirements, and successfully completing General Biology (grade of D or better) is a requirement for graduation from IRHS.**