

RR Biology Syllabus

Mrs. Merendo

Room A127 - Periods 2 & 3

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Welcome students and parents! It is my pleasure to welcome you to Resource Biology at Ironwood Ridge High School. This is my sixth year teaching and my fifth year at IRHS. I attended Ironwood Ridge for high school and later graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor of Science in Special Education (K-12) and Elementary Education.

Course Description

Students will be asked essential questions. What does it mean to be alive? Is DNA destiny? Was Darwin right? Students will examine life on our planet from a biological perspective. Students will examine a wide variety of topics connected to the study of life with an emphasis on experimental design and data analysis. Students will understand that life is dependent on the relationships between organisms and their past, present, and future environments and that evolution drives the natural world.

We will begin the year with the smallest unit of life - the cell. From there we will cover bacteria, viruses, fungi, genetics, plants, animals, and ecology. Some of the projects/labs you can look forward to are: the cell membrane bubble lab, growing mold and bacteria cultures, building a bio bottle, and dissecting a frog! Through these activities, students will engage in hands-on, inquiry based learning experiences to help them better understand life around them and answer some of science's BIG questions. This course is designed with the "portrait of a graduate" in mind. All units are aligned to the Arizona Biology Standards for High School. These can be found at:

<https://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/k-12standards/standards-science>

What are the class guidelines and expectations?

In this class, I expect you to be:

- Present, engaged, and on time.
- Curious (Ask questions!)
- Efficient with your time
- Prepared (see "What do I need to 'be prepared' for Biology?")
- Respectful
- Attentive (a good listener)
- Positive and open-minded

Tardy Policy - If you are prepared and in your seat when the bell rings, you will not be marked tardy. Tardiness may result in a loss of bellwork points for that day, parent contact, and when excessive, a referral.

Electronic Devices - Phones - Having your phone in class is a privilege. In order to keep that privilege, you need to adhere to the rules. This year we will be utilizing the traffic light visual indicator for phone use.

- Red light: phones are totally put away - I do not want to see them
- Yellow light: you may listen to music (with headphones), but you are not *on* your phone.
- Green light: we are using phones in class.

The first two warnings will result in a phone call or email home. The third time I need to ask you to put your phone away will result in an administrative referral.

Other Electronic Devices or not tolerated in the classroom. PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR SWITCH TO SCHOOL.

Food & Drink - This is a science lab and we will be performing labs and inquiries using chemicals, raw meat, growing mold and bacteria cultures, and more gross stuff that you *really* should NOT ingest.

Please do not bring your food in. Drinks with a sealed lid are okay.

Bathroom Policy - You have ten (10! That's a lot!!) bathroom passes per quarter. The bathroom passes can be found in your ISN. Please sign out and take a pass. Any passes leftover will be redeemable for some extra credit points at the end of each quarter. I understand there are special circumstances and emergencies (emergencies do not occur every day).

Attendance - Your success in this (and any) class is directly related to your attendance. If you are absent, YOU are responsible to get work, including any notes that you missed. I will adhere to the attendance policy of IRHS, which is found in the student code of conduct. In accordance with Arizona state law and Amphitheater Public School District's Governing Board policy, students cannot miss more than 10% of each class. Students enrolled in year-long courses will be marked "unexcused" after absence number 17. In semester long courses, students will be marked "unexcused" after absence number 9. Please note, teachers are not required to provide make-up work for any absence that is marked "unexcused." Regular school attendance is essential for success in school.

Homework - Homework is typically assigned on Monday and is due Friday. Unfinished classwork will become homework unless explicitly stated that we will continue working on the assignment in class. Extra copies of homework can be printed from Schoology.

"No Name" Papers - Papers with no name will be thrown away. Please make sure you put your name on each and every assignment.

Cheating - Cheating will not be tolerated, is defined in the student code of conduct and is a violation of the honor code. Consequences in the handbook will be adhered to in this class.

Grading Policy - Please use Tyler Parent Portal to check updated grades

All work that is turned in needs to be legible. Grades will be weighted as follows:

- **40% Tests & Quizzes** - Tests will be given at the end of units. For some units, students will complete a project or report rather than a test; these grades will still be placed in the "Tests & Quizzes" category of the gradebook. This includes final exams. A final exam will be given in December, covering fall semester content, and May, covering spring semester content.
- **30% Homework** - typically one assignment a week.
- **30% Class Participation** - Includes classwork, bellwork, and engagement. Engagement is measured by participation in discussion, class activities, independent work, and effort.

***Please note: a grade of 50% indicates the work was not submitted or was submitted incomplete while a grade of 51% (or higher) indicates that the student gave an honest attempt on the assignment.**

Letter Grades:

100-90% **A** 89-80% **B** 79-70% **C** 69-60% **D** 59%> **F**

Lab Safety - All Science Lab Safety rules will be enforced at all times. - Please see attached lab safety information. I ask that you please discuss these safety rules and the importance of following them with your child. Your child may be asked to sit out of labs if the safety contract is not signed and returned.

What do I need to be prepared for Biology?

- ISN - will be supplied to you in the first few days of school
- A spiral notebook strictly for this class.
- Pens and/or pencils (lead & eraser, too!)
- Highlighters (at least 2 colors)
- Calculator (you need one for math, you may as well bring it to science, too!)

*Please note: there are TWO forms that need to be completed, signed, and turned in.

1. Parent Contact Information Sheet
2. Lab Safety Contract



Parent Contact Information Sheet
Biology
~Merendo~

Please sign and return this bottom portion acknowledging you have read and discussed this syllabus with your child.

Thank you and I am looking forward to a spectacular year!

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s): _____

Parent/Guardian email: _____

Student Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____