

# 9TH GRADE BIOLOGY

Alvin C. York Institute 2018 - 2019

*To Prepare and Excel*

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**Course Description:** Biology I provides students with a wealth of experiences for both science practices and content knowledge needed in an ever changing world. The new academic standards for Biology I are research-based, supported by the National Research Council's Framework for K-12 Science Education, and establish the core ideas and practices of science and engineering that will prepare students to use scientific thinking to examine and evaluate knowledge encountered throughout their lives.

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## Course Curriculum: Miller & Levine Biology

**Outline:** The following topics will be covered in this class, generally in order as listed --

- Unit 1: The Nature of Life
  - Chapter 1: The Science of Biology
  - Chapter 2: The Chemistry of Life
- Unit 2: Ecology
  - Chapter 3: The Biosphere
  - Chapter 4: Ecosystems
  - Chapter 5: Populations
  - Chapter 6: Communities and Ecosystem Dynamics
  - Chapter 7: Humans & Global Change
- Unit 3: Cells
  - Chapter 8: Cell Structure & Function
  - Chapter 9: Photosynthesis
  - Chapter 10: Cellular Respiration
  - Chapter 11: Cell Growth & Division
- Unit 4: Genetics
  - Chapter 12: Introduction to Genetics
  - Chapter 13: DNA
  - Chapter 14: RNA & Protein Synthesis
  - Chapter 15: The Human Genome
  - Chapter 16: Biotechnology
- Unit 5: Evolution
  - Chapter 17: Darwin's Theory of Evolution
  - Chapter 18: Evolution of Populations
  - Chapter 19: Biodiversity & Classification
  - Chapter 20: History of Life

**Alvin C. York Institute Grading Scale:**

**A = 100-93   B= 92-85   C= 84-75   D= 74-70   F= Below 70**

**Grading Procedures:**

- 25% Tests
- 20% Quizzes
- 20% Labs/Projects
- 15% Classwork
- 10% 9 Weeks Tests (1 each grading period)
- 5% Homework
- 5% Class Participation

- **Tests:** (25%) Being the largest portion of the class, this is one of the most important components. Students will be required to study for these tests in order to excel. Students will be given at least two days notice before these exams, with a study guide included. Most tests will be composed of ~50 questions (multiple choice, fill in the blank, essay, etc). **There will be no test retakes or corrections!**
- **Quizzes:** (20%) Quizzes are mini versions of tests usually in the form of multiple choice or fill in the blank. Quiz corrections ARE allowed and are recommended! Students who fail quizzes (score under 70) will be required to make corrections. Students who pass will have the option to make corrections. All quiz corrections require students to rewrite the question(s) missed AND the correct answer 3 times each (rewrite the question 1 time, along with the correct answer 3 times on a clean sheet of notebook paper).
- **Classwork:** (15%) Classwork is work that we do in class and turn in, usually the same day. Students should be sure they are turning work in when it is due. Deductions will be taken accordingly if work is not turned in on time, or students are copying answers.
- **Homework:** (5%) Assignments will usually be problems or questions pertaining to the material we are covering. **Homework is due at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated.**
- **Labs/Projects:** (20%) Formal and informal lab reports will be prepared at the conclusion of most lab experiences. You will be assigned to a lab group. Cooperation and participation are critical to a lab group's success. Each member of the group will turn in his/her own work. Remember that you alone are ultimately responsible for your grade in lab. Safety procedures will be strictly enforced. Some of the equipment we will be using is quite valuable and must be treated accordingly. Irresponsible behavior will result in a 0 on lab.
- **9 Weeks Tests:** (10%) A collaborative test will be given at the end of each 9 weeks to assess students' understanding of the material covered up to that point. If a student misses this test, they will receive a 0.
- **Class Participation:** (5%) Students are expected to come to class prepared each day, arrive on time, turn in assignments when they are due, have all electronics put away, and be actively engaged in class. If the teacher notices that a child appears to be sleeping, texting, or not paying attention, he or she will not earn participation credit for that day.

## Class Materials:

- 3 ring binder with pockets (1-2 inches)
- \*Loose leaf paper
- \*Pencils
- \*Highlighters
- \*Index cards

*\*These items can be brought in to receive a bonus! (max of 4 items)*

- 1 item = 1 homework pass
- 2 items = 2 homework passes
- 3 items = 2 homework passes AND 1 +10 on a quiz of the student's choice
- 4 items = 2 homework passes AND 2 +10 on two quizzes of the student's choice

You **MUST** bring your biology binder to class each day. There is a bookshelf beside the front door if you would like to keep your binder in class. This notebook will contain class notes, study guides, etc.

**Assignment Policy and Procedures:** All assignments are to be turned in during the first five minutes of class to the designated paper turn in baskets. All assignments should be in pencil if possible. I do accept work that is in black or blue ink, but it must be legible. Illegible assignments may not be graded. I will not accept messy work. All assignments will need to be identified by your name (first and last), date, and highlighted in your class color. Assignments missing the full heading may be subject to a 10% deduction of grade, especially if it happens more than once. I do not grade papers that do not have a name....*if you liked it, you should have put your name on it...*

**Late Work Policy:** Students are expected to turn in their work on time. Late work will be deducted up to 30% of the maximum value and then graded. Late work will include all assignments/labs that are not turned in by the end of the day that it is due.

## Make-up Work Policy:

If you know you are going to be gone you will need to get your work **before** your absence (give teacher some warning so you will get your assignments in a timely manner). This includes school events. If you know you have a deadline for an assignment the day you will be gone for a school activity, the assignment is still due that day. For absences in which you did not expect to be gone, you will need to request all make up work on the day you return. Work due to excused absences must be made up within 3 days. After 3 days, it will not be graded. Missed labs or tests will require you to come in after/before school or at lunch. You have one week to make up tests or labs. Tests/Labs not made up within one week will marked as a zero (0). You are responsible for turning your work in on time.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** Students are expected to do their own work. Students who cheat on any work in class will be referred to the office, given a zero on the assignment and parents will be notified. When turning in labs, students can work together to perform the experiment and collect data in class, but are expected to put the entire laboratory report in their own words.

**Student Expectations:** Students are expected to be on time to class every day. Students are expected to bring all required materials to class each day. Students will treat each other, the teacher, and teacher aids with respect at all times. Do not abuse bathroom or nurse privileges.

**Technology:** Technology is used effectively throughout this course, and students are required to participate in online activities and access material online, as well as complete and submit assignments online. This will be done mostly through their Google Classroom accounts (account information will be provided).

### **Class Rules—Ms. Voiles' Class**

#### **Rules**

1. WORK HARD
2. TRY YOUR BEST
3. HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE
4. TRASH GOES IN THE CAN
5. COME TO CLASS PREPARED
6. NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS

#### **Technology Policies**

-No cell phones in classroom. There will be no time when you will need your cell phone in this class. Do not have it out, or your cell phone will be taken (pursuant to school policy).



-Earbuds and headphones will NOT be worn in this classroom. This distracts from the learning environment.

#### **Consequences**

1. Warning (reflects also on your class participation grade)
2. Cellphones will be confiscated. School Policy: 1<sup>st</sup> time = 24 hours, 2<sup>nd</sup> time = 1 week.
3. Disruptions will result in removal from class, detained after class, and/or after school detention
4. Office referral and/or parent contact

**\* Tear off this sheet and return to Ms. Voiles!\***

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read this syllabus carefully and understand what is expected of me by Ms. Voiles. It is my intention to do my best to follow these rules and policies in order that Ms. Voiles' class may run efficiently and learning may occur. **Reminder:** please sign up for my Bloomz account to receive updates and reminders about this class.

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the parent/guardian of the above student, have read and understand the policies of this syllabus and will do my part in aiding Ms. Voiles in the education of my child. **Reminder:** please sign up for my Bloomz account to receive updates and reminders about this class. (Info on blue sheet!) If both you and your student sign up, your student will receive a free quiz pass!

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special comments or concerns (anything your student might not want to discuss with me in person or anything that may help me understand your child better):

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