

AACT High School 2020-2021 Biology I & H Syllabus

Welcome to Biology!!

I am very excited to get to know all of you and am eager to work with you through what should be a very unique school year. Please read this document carefully and contact me with any questions.



Mrs. Lediard

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Virtual Classroom in Microsoft Teams.

Parents encouraged to preview often (have your child sign in).

Course Overview

This course is driven by the NGSS/ NVACS (Nevada Academic Content Standards based on Next Generation Science Standards). The NGSS is less “learning about science” and more “figuring out” science through inquiry, asking questions, and discovery. These standards require you to demonstrate your learning in 3 Dimensions: Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts.

Practices: These are habits of mind that help you learn how to engage in the scientific process. They include: developing and refining questions and models, plan and carry out investigations, analyzing data, using math and computational thinking, argue from evidence, and effectively communication.

Cross Cutting Concepts: These concepts transcend scientific disciplines. Examples include: patterns, cause and effect, and structure & function.

Disciplinary Core Ideas: Life sciences focus on processes, patterns, and relationships of living organisms. (See DCI’s for more info)

Life Science DCIs

Core Idea 1: Molecules to Organisms

- Structure & Function
- Growth & Development
- Matter & Energy Flow
- Information Processing

Core Idea 2: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy & Dynamics

- Interdependent relationships
- Cycles of Energy
- Ecosystem dynamics, functioning, and resilience
- Social Interactions & group Behavior

Core Idea 3: Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

- Inheritance of traits
- Variation of traits

Core Idea 4: Biological Evolution

- Evidence of common ancestry & diversity
- Natural Selection
- Adaptation
- Biodiversity

Grading

Grading is based on total points earned divided by total points possible. 10 point scale, (90 above = A. etc)

Supplies: composition notebook- 1 per semester. Colored pencils, whiteboard markers (1-2).

Honors vs. Biology 1

Both classes cover the same standards and topics as shared on page 1 of the syllabus. However, Honors will go into more depth on some topics. For more detail, visit the WCSD website > Departments > Curriculum & Instruction > Science > Honors vs Regular.

Labs/Projects

You will be assigned some labs and projects each term that pertain to our unit of study. You will be given detailed instructions as well as a grading rubric at the beginning of each lab/project. Some labs you will design yourself. These will look different this year, but we will try digital versions if possible.

Sense Making Journals

You will be responsible for maintaining a sense making journal (small comp notebook (graph)). This is where you will create diagrams, models, etc. from lectures, readings, and other activities. This is ongoing and checks will be announced. To turn in, you will use Microsoft Lens to digitally scan.

Types of Learning Activities

Weekly Lesson Sets

Each week a new lesson set will be loaded into your OneNote Class Notebook. These activity sets contain a variety of activities such as interactive reading, online simulations, practice quizzes, interactive lectures and activities and/or individual projects. If you are hybrid, you will complete most of these activities in class. If you are 100% online you will complete them at home. All activities in the lesson will have clearly defined due dates. Students must indicate completion in Teams > Assignments by the due date.

Expectations

1. Be on time for class and be prepared, ready to learn. Follow all lab safety rules and guidelines.
2. Do your best and take pride in your work.
3. Be a team player. Group projects require shared responsibility and collaboration. Be kind.
4. Make up work missed due to absence. It is **your** responsibility to get the work you missed. All work is available via Microsoft Teams in the Class Notebook.
5. You are expected to make your work **original**. Any scholastic dishonesty, or “cheating” will result in a **zero** for the assignment.

Assessments- Show what you know!

Assessments will be given periodically. At the conclusion of a unit, there will be a larger summative assessment. Assessments may be quiz, test, or project-based.

Group Learning

There will be collaborative learning/ small group work. You will be expected to contribute to the overall work of the team. Teamwork = shared responsibility. This will be achieved digitally for social distancing.

Book: we will utilize a digital textbook online. Reading assignments will be assigned via weekly task sets.

Technology

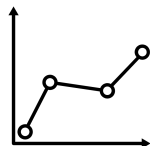
For those who are hybrid schedule, we ask that *if* you are able and willing to bring your personal digital learning device, (etc. laptop) with you to school to please do so. Due to social distancing, we will rely heavily on digital devices for simulations and interactivity among the class. This will ensure sharing is minimized, although all school laptops will be sanitized.

Digital Learning Platform

MS Teams

Microsoft Teams is the WCS D adopted digital platform. Students can use Teams to:

- Turn in activities and assignments
- Participate in digital discussions
- Ask questions and help in “questions forum”
- Access the OneNote class notebook where weekly activity sets will be housed.
- Take notes in their OneNote digital notebook



Remote vs. Hybrid

1. The remote and hybrid learning environments will **have the same expectations**. The only difference is that remote will be completing all requirements online. Announcements regarding live online sessions for remote learners will be posted in Teams > Channels > Virtual Learners Only.
2. All online activity requires students to adhere to norms and proper digital citizenship. Be kind. Be respectful. Stay on topic and keep communication academic and school related.
3. Some of the activities may “look” different for distance learners (ex: a face to face activity will be converted to digital).
4. Technology will be used in both hybrid and remote learning. It is imperative that you contact the office if you need to check out a laptop or have concerns about wifi connectivity.

Technology Set Up

Personal devices (laptops, desktops, and mobile devices) are able to download the Microsoft Suite for free using your washoeschools student account. This suite contains everything you need for our class- Teams, OneNote, Word, Powerpoint, Excel and more. To see video demonstrations of how to download and access these tools, please look in MS Teams > Class Notebook > Week 1. I also have a playlist on Youtube that can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/lediaryoutube>

Late work etc.

I will expect work to be turned in by the due date, as this is best for the learning experience (concepts build on each other). However, if something happens (as it often does in life), please just communicate to me that it will be late. If it is habitual then we will revisit one-on-one.