**Level 1 Biology**

Ms. Doty

dotye@region10ct.org

Welcome to Biology! In this course we will learn about many topics in biology including evolution, genetics, ecology, and more. We will practice making observations, designing experiments, and analyzing data. My goal is to instill in you a sense of wonder while helping you develop the skills needed to explore the world around you. I look forward to a wonderful school year with you. Please do not hesitate to contact we if you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year. My email is listed above and will be the best way to contact me as my school extension does not work.

**Biology Essential Questions**

1. How is all life related and dependent on each other?
2. Why does life of earth exist and what hereditary mechanisms guarantee its continuance?
3. What are the ethical implications of scientific advancements in biology?
4. How does the structure of life determine its function?
5. How and why is chemistry so important to biology?
6. How does science and technology affect the quality of our lives?
7. How do organisms work toward maintaining a biological balance?
8. How are problems solved from a scientific perspective?
9. Why is the statement “you are what you eat” true?
10. What is responsible for life’s unity and diversity?

**Student Expectations**

1. Students will be in their seats at the bell.
2. Students will arrive to class prepared.
3. Students will be respectful of all.
4. Students will be cooperative.
5. No food or drink in the classroom (except water).
6. Students continue working up until the bell.
7. Students will work independently unless told otherwise.
8. Participation and questions are expected in class.

**Homework**

Homework will be checked frequently and is worth 2 pts each assignment unless otherwise stated. I strongly suggest doing your homework daily as you will not know when I will check it to give you points and it will help you prepare for later assessments. Homework will consist of a maximum of 10% of your overall grade (refer to Region 10 Homework Policy).

**Laboratory**

During lab, students are to follow teacher instruction and proper safety. Failure to follow proper safety and instructions will not be tolerated and a zero will be given on the lab assignment.

**Late Work**

In general, late work is not tolerated. If it is unusual for you to miss an assignment and we haven’t discussed it in class, I will allow you to hand it in the next day for half credit. If late work becomes a habit you will not be allowed to hand in assignments late and will receive a zero.

**Absences**

If your absence is excused, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed. You may ask another student for that days notes any handouts will have your name on them and put in the absent folder on the side of my cart. It is your responsibility to pick them up. If you miss a lab, quiz, or test it is your responsibility to contact me and make an appointment to make them up.

**Cell Phones**

Cell phones are to remain off and put away during class unless I allow it for educational use in class. If you are caught using your cell phone it will be confiscated and returned at the end of class. If it is a habit, you and the cell phone will be turned into the office. During test and quizzes students will turn in their cell phones before entering the room. After the test is over, students will receive their cell phones back.

**Plagiarism & Cheating**

Student work is to be completed individually unless I have specified otherwise. Often you will work with a partner or group in the lab. Your data will be the same but your write up, conclusions, and graphs are done independently. If plagiarism/cheating is found the student(s) will receive no credit for the assignment(s) and sent to the office.

**Grading**

Assessment is done on a point system through teacher observation, homework, class work, quizzes, tests, exams, projects, labs, and other projects.

Final Average:

20% for each quarter grade

10% midterm

10% final

**Extra Help**

I am available for extra help after school. Students must make an appointment with me in advance.

**Please sign below indicating that you and your parents have read and understand the course information. I can’t wait to have you in class! Thanks!**

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**Student Name Printed Date**

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**Student Signature**

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**Parent Signature**