

*“Your Salvation is a free gift from God,
but your grade is based on works only.”
Dr. Paul Sattler*

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Room: A206

Course Description:

Biology means the study of life. This course will cover the basics of living organisms from molecules to ecosystems. It will show the role biology plays in everyday life, how science works, and how scientists operate in the real world. Specific issues over creation/evolution will be discussed throughout the course when relevant to the lesson.

Textbook & Required materials: Glencoe Science Biology ISBN: 978-0-07-894586-1 (digital)
Composition book
Index cards for vocab

Grading Polices:

Tests will typically be given after each chapter. Lab practical exams (practicals) will sometimes accompany lecture tests when applicable. All tests may be comprehensive in that they will build on the foundation of previous material. Practicals will cover material learned during laboratory exercises.

A short quiz (10-15 questions) will be given periodically throughout the chapter covering the material from the lecture & discussion. The purpose of quizzes is to ensure students' attentiveness in class & to help the students acclimate themselves to how test questions will be worded. Quizzes will be returned to the students & they may use them to study for tests since test material reflect quiz questions. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of each quarter.

The Student's grade will be determined on the basis of:

Tests/Lab Practicals	50 %
Quizzes	30 %
Lab exercises/Participation	10 %
Homework/Pre-labs	<u>10 %</u>
Total Points	100 %

The following grading scale will be used:

A = 90 - 100% B = 80 - 89% C = 70 - 79% D = 60 - 69% F = 0 - 59%

Study Journal

Each student will be required to keep a study journal. The study journal will be checked by the teacher each Monday for a homework grade. The purpose of the journal is to keep track of the study habits of each student so that such habits can be improved upon if needed. A dedicated composition book *must* be used. The journal should consist of the following

- Date of study session
- How long each study session was
- What was studied (i.e. book, article, notes, PowerPoints, etc.)
- How the student studied (i.e. flashcards, read through material twice, etc.)

In order to receive full credit for the weekly grade, each student should have at least one hour's worth of study per week. Each individual study session will need to be verified by a parent/guardian via a signature. Below is an example of how the entries should look.

2/1/14 (1 hr)	Memory drills with flash cards
<i>signature</i>	Read pgs 10-20
	Quizzed myself with end of chapter questions
2/4/14 (1/2 hr)	Read through PowerPoints
<i>signature</i>	Memory drills with flash cards

Test Flash Cards

The use of memorization devices and techniques is crucial for success on any test. Students will be required to exhibit flash cards each test day for a grade. The flash cards must be traditional paper flash cards, **no digital apps on an electronic device (smart phone, tablet, etc.)**. Flash cards should have vocabulary words, concepts, lists, etc. The minimum number of flash cards that are acceptable will correspond with how many vocabulary words there are in each tested section.

Attendance & Participation Policies:

Students are expected to attend all lectures and laboratories. This is in your best academic interest. Any Canvas assignments must be submitted by the posted due date. Work submitted after the due date will be considered late and receive point deductions. Assignments physically handed in must be turned in at the beginning of class or when requested. Assignments handed in after the final call will be considered late (refer to page 31 of the SFCA Parent/Student Handbook). Tests are based on lectures derived from the textbook and sometimes supplemented with outside material. Students who have not been exposed to lecture material will not perform well on tests (for specifics on the absence policies, refer to the SFCA handbook). Laboratory participation is essential to success. Students cannot make up laboratories due to the nature of the extensive preparation which must be done for each lab. All lectures and some labs will be recorded for students who are absent.

Dress Code:

SFCA dress codes must be followed at all times during lecture. Uniform polos may be taken off (only if an undershirt is being worn) during labs so as not to ruin the uniform shirt w/ dyes, chemicals, etc. The student **MUST** be in full uniform upon leaving the classroom. Participating in a lab is no excuse for being out of uniform outside my class. If you do not wish to remove your uniform shirt or don't have an appropriate undershirt, lab aprons will be made available. You may also bring a large tee shirt to put on over your uniform.

Classroom Policies:

It is expected that every student will conduct himself in an orderly, courteous manner at all times with prompt and respectful obedience to all school personnel, following all adult direction w/out comment. If a student questions a teacher's decision, he/she should speak to the teacher privately after class. At that time, he/she should respectfully explain the situation and wait for the teacher's response. Minor student disruptions during a class period will be dealt with following the secondary 4-step discipline plan. 1. The student will receive a verbal warning the first time. 2. The student will receive a written warning the second time that will be sent home to the parents via FACTS and a conference

may be requested. 3. The teacher will assign a penalty to the student in the form of a detention, written assignment, or other discipline deemed appropriate if there is a third occurrence of discipline issues. 4. The teacher will refer the student to the Administration if a fourth incident arises.

It is expected that every student will respect the feelings and rights of others. This includes students, teachers and visitors. It is expected that every student will conduct himself in an honest manner, avoiding such actions as lying, stealing and cheating. It is expected that every student will be on time to each class and be prepared with a proper mental attitude and all their necessary materials, books and assigned work. It is expected that every student understands that the teacher's desk, computer, and other personal belongings and work area is personal property and will be treated as such. It is expected that every student will remain in compliance with the classroom teacher's rules, policies and procedures. Labs, tests, etc. that are missed because of such dismissals cannot be made up.

All high school students are required to have a **fully charged, fully functioning** laptop in class each day. Cell phones are not acceptable devices. If a student's tablet dies, the student **may not** use their cell phone for class activities. This will result in a zero for participation. Any inappropriate use (playing games, internet, etc.) will result in not being allowed to use the technology for the rest of the semester. Misuse of iPods, calculators, etc. will not be tolerated either. Cell phones are to be placed in a designated storage location during class time and cannot be used unless the instructor gives permission. Students who engage in misconduct with technological devices will be subject to penalties as indicated in the SFCA Parent/Student Handbook. **POSSESSING A CELL PHONE OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING A TEST, LAB PRACTICAL OR EXAM IS CONSIDERED CHEATING AND WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC ZERO.**

Lab Exercises:

Participation is a large portion of the grade and points may be deducted if one partner is the only one doing the work. Properly cleaning up the lab station as well as proper use of lab equipment will affect the student's grade. Labs *may* be recorded so absent students can know what happened, but credit cannot be given even if the video is watched.

Writing assignments:

Students will periodically write a 1-2 page papers summarizing various reading assignments or research topics. Instructions will be discussed in class and submitted to Canvas. Time permitting, students may be assigned in the 4th quarter a group PowerPoint presentation pertaining to a creation/evolution topic.

The following is a concise list of my basic expectations for students. Please read and initial each expectation as a part of the syllabus contract.

Students are expected to:

- **WORK!** You must put in effort to succeed. Apathy & laziness are recipes for failure.
- Study **effectively**, however often and long is necessary to succeed. The method of study and time will differ from student to student.
- Check Email, Canvas, and FACTS **daily** to make sure you are up to date on everything. Changes and updates for assignments will be communicated via email.
- Watch recorded lectures for the days you are absent. This is **not optional!**
- **READ THE BOOK!** You must read to learn. Include reading time in your study routine.
- Make vocab cards early in the chapter and study those **repetitively** throughout the chapter. Repetition is necessary to learn new words and concepts.
- Be ready to start lecture/lab/activity when the bell rings!
- **Actively** engage during lecture. Take notes, participate in Nearpod activities, and ask questions about things you don't understand.
- **FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!** Assignments, homework, and especially lab activities must be done the proper way to get full credit or any credit. Failure to follow directions can result in a poor grade, disciplinary action, or both.
- **COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME!**

