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Fall 2023

Mrs. Merritt

Room 217

[rlmerritt@k12.wv.us](mailto:rlmerritt@k12.wv.us)

**Overview**

This course, designed for students who have completed Earth Science 9, will explore a broad variety of biological concepts. Upon completing the course, students will better understand the relationship between the structure and function of living things as well as important aspects of cell structure, genetics, DNA technology, and ecology.

**Textbook**

HMH Science Dimensions Biology

**Mrs. Merritt’s Website**

The class website can be found at [www.merrittbiology.com](http://www.merrittbiology.com). In addition to powerpoints and notes, I have posted supplemental videos and review games.

**Schoology**

Announcements and assignments will be posted daily.

**ICE Packs**

Please see Schoology for information and assignments in the event an ICE day is called. Assignment(s) will be posted by 09:00.

**Lab Safety**

All students are required to submit a signed Lab Safety contract and pass a Lab Safety Quiz BEFORE performing any lab. Disregard for the safety of others will result in immediate removal from class and a zero for the activity. Further disciplinary action will be determined by the administration.

**Expectations**

*Be kind. Work hard. Stay engaged.*

1) At the beginning of class, be sure you have a pencil/pen, paper, and charged iPAD. If you need any materials please get them from the student resource table.

2) During class, be an active participant in your learning. Listen, collaborate, and ask questions.

3) At the end of class, please return all borrowed materials and throw away trash

***Cell phone/smart watch policy-ALL personal smart devices are prohibited in the classroom. Violators will have the device confiscated and turned in to the office.***

**Consequences**

Inappropriate behavior will result in a conference after class, parent notification, and/or office referral.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating will result in lack of credit and office referral.  This includes but is not limited to plagiarizing answer keys and the work of fellow classmates as well as cheating on an exam. Talking during an exam is considered cheating!

**Grading**

Grading Scale**:** 90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), 60-69 (D), below 60 (F)

Grades will be posted on Livegrades at least once a week.

**Makeup and Late Work**

In accordance with school policy, students will have one day for each day missed

IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK SCHOOLOGY AND REQUEST MAKEUP WORK. If a student is absent from class for a school sponsored event, it is their responsibility to obtain work in advance.

As per school policy, students who fail to complete at least 50% of an assignment by its due date will be assigned Lunch to Learn (Please see below for full policy).

**Lunch to Learn**

Lunch to Learn will be mandatory for all 9th and 10th graders who fail to complete at least 50% of an assignment, including homework, classwork, projects, etc. The following school day after being assigned by their teacher, these students must get their lunch and report to Room 105 for **BOTH**lunches. They should bring their lunch to eat in the classroom while they complete their work. The highest grade a student can receive on these assignments is a 60%. There will also be a tally kept by Ms. Hathaway of how many times each student is assigned to lunch to learn for all of their classes total. **Every**3 times being assigned to lunch to learn, students will receive After School Detention. Every 9 times, the student will be placed in In School Suspension.

**Remediation Plan**

If a student’s average is at or below a 50%, parents will be notified and an academic support plan will be developed. This may include lunch tutoring.

**County Final Exam Policy**

If you have just ONE unexcused absence in a class, or over 5 excused absences in a class, you will be **required** to take a comprehensive semester exam for the class, or classes, that you have accumulated these absences. This exam will be factored into your final grade for the course that will go on your transcript.  By policy, excuses must be submitted within 3 school days of returning to school. After that, the absence will be unexcused. **Excuses may now be completed online by filling out the Absence Excuse Form on the BHS website!**Students who are exempt from exams may voluntarily take the exam to raise their semester grade. If the exam grade does not help you, it will not be counted.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the course syllabus for Biology.

Student Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please submit the signature page to the instructor within 5 instructional days. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may also write any information you would like the instructor to know concerning your student and/or preferred contact information on the signature portion.