Omaha North High Magnet School
Honors Zoology
Course Syllabus

Instructors: Mrs. Amanda Fricke
E-mail: amanda.fricke@ops.org
Office Phone Number: 557-3400
Plan Periods: A3 & B2
Office/Classroom Room #230

Best way to contact: EMAIL – will usually respond within 24 hours.

Course Description
This course engages students in inquiry-based problem solving as they investigate biological issues that are relevant to their daily lives. Topics of study include: the cell; the molecular basis of heredity; biological evolution; the interdependence of organisms; and matter, energy, and organization in living systems. This course meets the district requirement for biology.

Instructional Philosophy
With the successful completion of a science course, students should be expected to look at the world around them making logical connections to science concepts. Differentiation and inquiry are strong components used to engage the student in learning scientific concepts. Each student deserves to learn, and an effort should be made to connect with each student to drive that learning. The use of kinesthetic, visual, and auditory based lessons encourages students to be successful, using their personal learning style. Engaging the students in activities and labs will build inquiry skills needed to be taken out into the student’s daily environment. Questioning possibilities, problem solving, and critical thinking skills can increase with the use of inquiry and builds well rounded citizens.

Major Units of Study
Unit #1: Introduction to Animal Classification
1. Properties of Life
2. Defining Animals
3. Theory of Evolution
4. Nomenclature
5. Species Concepts
6. Ecological Impacts on Animals

Unit #2: Invertebrates
1. Body Plans
2. Anatomical Terms
3. Porifera (Sponges)
4. Platymenthes (Flat worms)
5. Nematoda (Roundworms)
6. Annelida (Segmented Worms)
7. Mollusca (Mollusks)
8. Arthropoda (Lobsters, Crabs, “Bugs” etc…)
9. Echinodermata (Starfish)

Unit #3: Chordates
1. 5 Hallmarks of Chordates
2. Non-Vertebrate Chordates
3. Fish
4. Amphibians
5. Reptiles
6. Birds
7. Mammals
8. Human Ancestry
Course Expectations

- Complete coursework, both in and out of class, in a timely fashion. Late work will be accepted at teacher’s professional discretion.
- Participate during in-class discussion and cooperative learning opportunities.
- Complete formal lab write-ups.
- Create technology based projects and presentations.

Class Rules and Expectations

*Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible*

- Rules and guidelines set forth in the student handbook will be followed in this class. Any student who distracts other students or the instructor interferes with the learning environment and should expect consequences.
- **Attendance:** Being in class, on time, is important for student success. Anyone entering the classroom after the bell has stopped ringing is tardy. Per school policy...
- **Electronic Devices:** No electronic devices (cell phones, mp3 players, games, etc.) are permitted to be seen, heard, or used in the classroom at any time, per school policy...

Safety Expectations

Biology is a lab-based course with safety as an essential component. The safety guidelines support and encourage an investigative approach and laboratory instruction, while at the same time assisting in the development of a safe learning environment. Students will follow the Omaha Public Schools district guidelines on safety that is published in the science safety contract. Students will be provided a copy of the guidelines. The students, parents and/or guardians are expected to read the guidelines and sign and return the signature portion of the contract. The student will not be allowed to participate in the lab activities until the signed contract is returned.

Text

- *Integrated Principles of Zoology* by Hickman

Assessment

- Course grades will be determined by planned assessments such as tests, quizzes, and projects scored with rubrics.
- Students may retake a section quiz after successfully completing their section study guides. Once the teacher has seen the study guide the student will then schedule a time with the teacher to retake the quiz OUTSIDE of class time with teacher, in the Homework Helproom, or during Athletic Study Table (if applicable).
- Major tests and/or writing projects are to be expected at the end of each major unit outlined above. Unit Tests can ONLY be retaken if students had all of their unit coursework completed BEFORE the original scheduled test day. Unit Project due dates will ONLY be extended at teacher’s discretion.
- **State Testing:** To address state requirements, all 11th grade students will complete a required test – to be determined.
- **District Testing:** The NWEA/MAP test will be administered as a predictive test. The NWEA/MAP test will be administered in high school only to 9th grade students.

OPS Secondary Grading Practices

All coursework and assessments are judged based on the level of student learning from “below basic” to “advanced.” This course will provide multiple opportunities to achieve at the “proficient” to “advanced” levels. Students are evaluated based on a proficiency scale or project rubric. Proficiency scales for this course are available upon request (teacher will identify location such as portal, teacher website, attached, etc.)

Weighting Assignments (Using A Multiplier)

When entering grades in the grade book, teachers may assign greater weight to some assignments than others. For example, the final exam may impact a student’s summative grade more than a unit test. Teachers will have the option to use the multiplier to weigh both formative and summative assessments to a maximum of 4. If a weight of
2 or more is applied to an assessment, this information will be communicated to students at the time the assessment is announced.

There are three types of coursework

- **Practice**—assignments are brief and done at the beginning of learning to gain initial content (e.g., student responses on white boards, a valid sampling of math problems, keyboarding exercises, and diagramming sentences, checking and recording resting heart rate). Practice assignments are not generally graded for accuracy (descriptive feedback will be provided in class) and are not a part of the grade. Teachers may keep track of practice work to check for completion and students could also track their practice work. Practice work is at the student’s instructional level and may only include Basic (2) level questions.

- **Formative (35% of the final grade)**—assessments/assignments occur during learning to inform and improve instruction. They are minor assignments (e.g., a three paragraph essay, written responses to guiding questions over an assigned reading, completion of a comparison contrast matrix). Formative assignments are graded for accuracy and descriptive feedback is provided. Formative work may be at the student’s instructional level or at the level of the content standard. Formative assessments/assignments will have all levels of learning – Basic (2), Proficient (3), and Advanced (4), which means that for every formative assessment/assignment, students will be able to earn an Advanced (4). Teachers will require students to redo work that is not of high quality to ensure rigor and high expectations. The students’ score on a formative assessment that was redone will be their final score. It is recommended to have three to five formative assessments for every one summative assessment.

- **Summative (65% of the final grade)**—assessments/assignments are major end of learning unit tests or projects used to determine mastery of content or skill (e.g., a research paper, an oral report with a power point, major unit test, and science fair project). Summative assignments are graded for accuracy. Summative assignments assess the student’s progress on grade level standards and may not be written at the student’s instructional level. Summative assessments/assignments will have all levels of learning – Basic (2), Proficient (3), and Advanced (4), which means that for every formative assessment/assignment students will be able to earn an advanced (4).

To maintain alignment of coursework to content standards, which is a key best practice for standards-based grading, teachers will utilize a standardized naming convention for each of the standards within a course. The content standard will be marked on each assignment entered into Infinite Campus (District Grading Program) using all capital letters followed by a colon. After the colon will be the title of the coursework.

At the end of the grading period, scores are converted to a letter grade using this grading scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPS Grading Scale</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>3.26 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2.51 – 3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1.76 – 2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.01 – 1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00 – 1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Redoing/Revising Student Coursework**

1. Students are responsible for completing all coursework and assessments as assigned.
2. Students may be allowed redos and revisions of coursework for full credit during that unit of study based upon the teacher’s professional judgment and evidence collected throughout the unit. Scores for student work after retaking, revising or redoing will not be averaged with the first attempt at coursework or assessment but will replace the original student score.
3. Students are expected to complete assessments when given to the class, or if a student was justifiably absent, at a time designated by the teacher.
4. Redoing, retaking or revising will be done at teacher discretion in consultation with the student and parent(s). Teachers may schedule students before, during, or after school to address needed areas of improvement if not convenient during class. The time and location for redoing, retaking or revising will be done at the teacher’s discretion in consultation with the student and parent(s).

**Late Coursework**
Students are expected to complete coursework on time. Late coursework may be accepted for full credit until the end of the unit based on the teacher’s professional judgment and evidence collected throughout the unit. Accepted late work will not result in a reduction in grade and the M (Missing) will be replaced with the score earned by the student. The teacher or school may make exceptions depending upon student circumstances (such as prolonged absences due to illness).

**Missing Coursework**
Work not turned in at all will be recorded in Infinite Campus (district grade book) as an M for missing, which calculates to a score of zero.

**Independent Practice**
The role of independent practice is to develop knowledge and skills effectively and efficiently during the unit of study. Independent practice helps guide the learning process by providing accurate, timely and helpful feedback to students without penalty.

Revised 8/31/18 – Fricke