**Burbank Biology Syllabus, 2020-2021**

Instructor: Ms. Mari Brown Room: 132  
Email: Mbrown10@saisd.net Conference: 2nd Period

**Welcome to Biology!!**  We will be following a fast-paced schedule, so good attendance is crucial to student success!

1. **Biology General Requirements -**

One credit for successful completion of this course; Prerequisite: None. This course is recommended for students in Grade 9.

The **Biology End-of-Course** test will be taken in May and is required for graduation. There will also be a Fall and a Spring Semester Exam.

1. **Course Goals -**

In Biology, students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students in Biology study a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; cells, tissues, and organs; nucleic acids and genetics; biological evolution; taxonomy; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; living systems; homeostasis; and ecosystems and the environment.

1. **Course Outline -**

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| **First Semester** | **Second Semester** |
| Nature of Science  Intro to Cells  Cellular Processes for Homeostasis  Cellular Processes for Energy  Cell Cycle  Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis  Genetics and Epigenetics  Semester 1 Exam | Evolution  Taxonomy and Classification  Animal Systems  Plant Systems  Ecosystems  STAAR Review  Biology STAAR Exam  Living Systems Interactions  Semester 2 Exam |

1. **Grading -**

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| --- | --- |
| 60% Assignments   * Daily Assignments * Homework * Article Critiques * Journaling * Labs   40% Assessments   * Projects * Quizzes * Tests | 90-100% = A  80-89% = B  75-79% = C  70-74% = D  69% and Below = F |

1. **Late Assignments -**All assignments are due at the beginning of the period. Other than excused or prearranged absences, assignments handed in at any other time are considered late. **Penalties for late work: 10 points for each day it is late.**
2. **Make-Up Assignments and Tests -**Work missed due to an excused or prearranged absence will be due **one week upon the student’s return to school**. It is the responsibility of the student to find out what work was assigned and what information was missed. Labs missed due to absences must be made up. Check with me to determine when you can make up the lab. Tests missed due to an absence should be taken as soon as possible following an absence. Missed tests will only be given either before or after school. **No make-up tests will be given during class time.**
3. **Assignment Requirements -**All assignments must be complete and on the paper specific to that assignment. Only one copy will be given, **do not lose it**. All assignments must be written in ink or pencil and be legible. All work must be shown on assignments, labs and exams including calculations.
4. **Materials-**

You will be expected to have your materials for class every day. These include: **A spiral/composition notebook** for journaling with 100 sheets of paper (70 won’t get you through the whole year). **You will need to have this AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, as we will start using it right away**. You will also need a pen with **blue or black ink**. Please do not write in red pen or markers. You will be expected to have these materials **DAILY**. I will have a class set of textbooks, so it is not necessary for you to check one out.

1. **Expectations –**

Students are expected to participate in class on a daily basis, work collaboratively with other students, complete all assignments with attention to quality, and be prepared to learn. In addition, be respectful of my classroom rules. Be on time to class, have respect for your teacher, classmates, school property and yourself. No cell phones or other electronic devices in class and I dismiss the class, not the bell.

**\*\*Let’s have a successful year!!**