

General Biology  
Mrs. Abraham  
2008-2009

### Description of Course

This course introduces essential concepts of science and the scientific process from a biological context. The important role that biology plays in improving modern society and providing for its future needs will be emphasized. The applications of biology to solving current problems (i.e. forensics) will also be explored.

### Major Topics Covered

Semester 1: methods of science, classification, ecology, biochemistry and microscopes, cell morphology and physiology, and cell energy

Semester 2: cell reproduction, genetics, DNA structure and function, origin of life and evolution, human anatomy and physiology

### Recommended Supplies

3-ring binder or folder with loose-leaf paper and graph paper  
black and blue pens  
#2 pencils and colored pencils or markers

### Grading Policy

Final grades are calculated with the following percentages:

Participation: 10%

Homework/Class Work: 25%

Labs: 20%

Tests: 30%

Semester Final: 15%



**Participation:** Fifteen points will automatically be awarded for participation each six weeks. Each time a student is tardy, a point will be deducted.

**Homework:** You will USUALLY be given two days to complete homework. Example: Homework assigned on Monday will be due on Wednesday; homework assigned on Thursday or Friday will be due on Monday. Homework is accepted until 2:40pm the day it is due or 2:40pm of the next school day for 10% off. **I do not accept late work.** Homework is usually checked for completion. Don't leave questions blank; always try!

Homework can be emailed to me, but remember – I only have Microsoft Word. If you are using WordPerfect, you need to save your assignment in Rich Text Format. **Computer/printer failures are not acceptable excuses for late work.**

**Labs:** A “cookbook” is required the day of the lab. A “cookbook” is required the day of the lab. This is a visual representation of the steps in the procedure, letting me know you have previewed and understand the lab prior to coming to class.

A lab requiring a formal lab report is due one week after the final day of the lab. If no formal lab report is required, the lab is due two days after the final day of the lab. Lab answers are checked for correct understanding of the concepts being studied and analysis of the data gathered.

If you are absent from school the day a lab is performed, you should expect to make it up after school the first day you are back. If you are on a field trip, you are expected to stay after school that day to make up the lab. If you choose not to stay after, a 3-5 page research paper on the topic is acceptable as an alternative assignment.

**Tests:** **Students may retake tests** as many times as they want as long as they showed a “good faith effort” on their first test AND continue to do better each time. Tests must be retaken before or after school by appointment. Students will receive the highest grade earned on the test.

**Extra Credit:** There will be opportunities for extra credit at various times throughout the year. If you choose not to complete the extra credit available, no other extra credit accepted.

### Student Expectations

Be in class. CHS policy states that students will lose credit after the 12<sup>th</sup> absence during a semester. It is very hard to catch up on the work and notes missed.

If you are absent, you can **check the website** ([www.quia.com/pages/abebiology.html](http://www.quia.com/pages/abebiology.html)) for information. **You WILL be expected to take quizzes or tests on the day you return.** Worksheets passed out will be in the folder corresponding to your class period.

Be in your seat with the necessary materials when the tardy bell rings. For each tardy, you will lose participation points. In addition, you will receive a warning for the first tardy. For every subsequent tardy, you will be assigned a 30 minute detention.

Help keep the classroom neat and clean. If you have trash, throw it in the waste basket, not on the floor or in the sinks. (Do not play basketball with your trash during class.)

Eating and drinking are NOT allowed in any classroom according to school rules. **If you bring food and drink into the classroom, you will be asked to throw it away.** Water is the only exception to this rule.

If I see a cell phone out, I will collect it and you can pick it up at the end of the day. If this happens more than once, I will turn the phone into the main office.

You will NOT be allowed to go to the bathroom during direct-instructional time or while watching videos, so use the passing time wisely!

Follow all rules as stated in the parent/student handbook.

### Communication

If at any time during the school year, you are feeling anxious about an assignment or have questions, you have four ways to contact me or check up on class activities.

- 1) class website: [www.quia.com/pages/abebiology.html](http://www.quia.com/pages/abebiology.html)
- 2) my email: [mrsabraham@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsabraham@hotmail.com)
- 3) my school phone: 360-833-5750

### WASL Incentive

Students may earn a better semester grade based on their WASL exam results. For those earning a 4 on the exam, they are eligible to receive up to a one letter grade bump for both semesters. Students receiving a 3 on the exam are eligible to bump up their grade by one letter for one semester only. To be eligible for the grade bump, students must have turned in all regular course work throughout the year or in the semester for which they would like to bump their grade. Students are responsible for bringing their WASL test scores to me and initiating the grade change.

