Biology Syllabus
Mrs. Smith

Do you know how long your DNA stretches? According to Bill Nye, how big are human cells? Are you considered to be a “taster” or “non-taster” phenotype? Where are the decomposers located within a food web? What important role does the mitochondria play within our bodies?

THE STUDY OF BIOLOGY HOLDS MANY EXCITING ANSWERS AND PROMISES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Web Site: http://mrssmithbiologyclass.yolasite.com

Course Topics
The following units are what we will be concentrating on this semester:

- Skills/Processes
- Biochemistry
- Cell Parts and Functions
- Genetics
- Nucleic Acids/Protein Synthesis
- Ecology
- Evolution
- Bioethics

Materials
In order to be successful in this class there are several materials that you are going to need. These materials include, but are not limited to:

- **Very Large 3-ring binder** with 5 dividers (tabs) to organize -

  1.) Warm-Ups
  2.) Class Notes/Labs
  3.) Homework
  4.) HSA Vocab
  5.) Quizzes/Grade Sheets

- Basic Calculator
- Pencils/Colored Pencils
- **Bound Composition Lab Book** (100 pages)

You are expected to come to class **every day prepared**, which means bringing all of these items. **This will count toward your participation grade!**
Grades

BENCHMARK EXAMS: To Be Announce!!!
- Biology Pretest
- Unit Test #1 (3.1)
- Unit Midterm #2 (3.2)
- Unit Test #3 (3.3)
- HSA Exam TBA
- Unit Test #4 & #5 (3.4 and 3.5)

QUIZZES: There will be weekly quizzes. All quiz dates will be posted on classroom agenda board 1 week in advance. A few of these quizzes will be open notebook, so I highly suggest that you take good notes during class.

NOTEBOOKS: Your notebook will be collected and graded several times during the semester or completion of a notebook quiz. Each check is worth 25 points.

PROJECTS, CLASS WORK, HW, and LABS: Points will vary.

HSA Vocabulary: (20 points each week)
- You will be accountable for weekly HSA vocabulary terms.
- On Monday or Tuesday, I will indicate each new group of terms.
- PICTURE definition, REALWORLD example, or state in your OWN words.
- Each new group of terms are due the following Tuesday. NO EXCEPTIONS!!
- Weekly quizzes will be given regarding assessments of words the prior week.

Calculation of Grades

Grades will be based on a point system. This means that your grade will be based on the total number of points earned versus the number of points possible. A grade book will be kept recording your effort on a daily basis (attendance, lateness, asking to leave class, talking during instruction, HW & Vocabulary completion, failure to give 100% effort, poor attitude, etc.).

Your participation grade will be factored in during progress report times, mid-term, and FINAL grade.
Completing GRADED Assignments

ALL GRADED assignments will be completed in PENCIL unless otherwise noted. Colored pens (pink, orange, purple, etc.) are not allowed. Handwriting and neatness counts! OTHERWISE, POSSIBLE POINTS WILL BE LOST!

Make-up Work

Make-up work will be allowed for Excused absences or School-related absences only. NO MAKE-UP WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. No more than one calendar week will be allowed to make up any assignment. It is your student responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher regarding graded missed assignments.

Educate yourself only on the days that end in "y"!

We will have enough time to finish everything. Just relax and DO NOT RUSH your assignments. The worst thing to do is wait until the LAST minute to do assignments or to study for the quizzes and benchmark exams.

DUE DATES ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR!!!
Classroom Procedures/Expectations/Rules

1.) Be prepared for class
   - Bring all materials listed to class every day.
   - Gather warm-up activity upon entering classroom door.
   - Get a good night's sleep

2.) Respect the rights of your fellow classmates.
   - During discussions wait your turn. Only one person can effectively share his or her thoughts at a time. Raise your hand so that can be addressed.
   - Do not touch, borrow, hide, or play with another's belongings unless you ask them first.
   - Listen while others speak.

3.) Follow directions the first time that they are given.

4.) Follow all Stephen Decatur High School rules.
   * Read your Student Handbook! Things to point out:
     - No eating or drinking in lab areas. **EVER!**
     - Cheating is not tolerated. **EVER!**
     - Use appropriate language in the classroom.
     - No sleeping during class time.
     - NO hats/hoods will be worn in my classroom.
     - MUST be in your seat, have OPENED binder, and warm ready to go **BEFORE LATE BELL RINGS. Participation points will be deducted!**

5.) Always give 100% effort.
   - Participate actively in class
   - Listen attentively while others are speaking.
   - Always try! Even if you think the activity is **ridiculous.**

6.) Classroom Dismissal:
   - **ALL students will be in a seat BEFORE the bell rings. Points Lost!**
   - The bell does not dismiss you. I reserve the right to hold you after the bell if you are not in your seat, the room is not clean, or any other circumstances that require you to stay.

7.) Leaving the room.
   - **Bathroom:** Each student will have 7 bathroom privileges throughout the semester. **May NOT** be **SHARED** among your classmates. **Use them WISLEY!!**
   - **Hall pass:** Whenever you leave the room, you **MUST** take your **signed agenda** as your hall pass. When leaving the room, you **MUST** sign out on the "sign out/ sign in" sheet provided.
SDHS Cell Phone and Electronic Use Policy

A school-wide policy is in effect for this school year regarding cell phones and electronic devices. All teachers and students are required to abide by the policy and your signature on this document ensures that you have read and understand the current policy.

Students will be given ONE warning. This warning will be issued at the beginning of the school year during their class meeting. Cell phone and electronic usage is not permitted in hallways and instructional areas during the school day. Should a student be seen using their cell phone or electronic device during this time, the following steps will be taken:

1st Occurrence: Confiscation of device. The device may be returned no later than the end of that school day.

2nd Occurrence: Confiscation of device with referral to the administration.

Once the administration receives the referral, the following steps will take place:

1st Referral: Confiscation of device until the end of the day, with a parent conference by phone or in person.

2nd Referral: Confiscation of device, Saturday School and a parent must come in for a conference to retrieve phone.

3rd Referral: Confiscation of device, Out of School Suspension, and parent must come in for a conference to retrieve device.

Please sign below ensuring that you have read and understand the SDHS Cell Phone and Electronic Use Policy:

Student Name ___________________ Signature ___________________

Parent/Guardian Name ___________________ Signature ___________________
**Consequence for breaking a rule**

**Lateness:**
1st time: Friendly Reminder  
2nd time: Warning  
3rd time: After School Detention; Call Home  
4th time: Office Referral (Parent Conference)

**Cell Phones, iPods, MP3 Players:**
1st time: Taken Away (END OF DAY)  
2nd time: Office Referral (Parent Conference)

**Repeated behavior after 3rd & 4th time:** Continual Office Referrals and Parent Conferences  
Refer to your Worcester County/SDHS Agenda Policies

**Responsibilities**

**My responsibilities as your teacher:**
- To treat you with respect and care as an individual.  
- To provide you an orderly classroom environment.  
- To provide the necessary discipline.  
- To provide the appropriate motivation.  
- To teach you the required content.

**Your responsibilities as my students:**
- To treat me with respect and care as an individual.  
- To attend class regularly. Be prepared daily.  
- To be cooperative and not disruptive.  
- To study and do your Best. **MAKE AN EFFORT! NOT EXCUSES!!**
- To learn and **master** the required content.

**Normal Classroom Day**
- Warm-up: Pick up at the front of the classroom or elmo(5 min.)  
- Go over Warm-up (5 min.)  
- Daily Activities:  
  * HW/Vocab reviews, notes & discussions (10-20 min.)
  * Labs/Projects (40-50 mins.)  
- Wrap-up: Review agenda/clean up (10 min.)

This can be a very interesting class. I will try my best to make it as exciting as I can; however, it will depend on **your attitude** if we have fun in this class or not!

**** Have this signed for 15 bonus points****

**Student Signature:** __________________________

**Parent Signature:** __________________________
- I have reviewed classroom procedures and rules. Date: __________

**Parent email address:** __________________________
20 Extra Bonus Points

Your Task:
To bring in 1 of the following items that are very useful in your classroom.

- glue sticks
- box of toothpicks
- "Clorox" wipes
- pencils
- box of Kleenex
- BLUE or RED correcting PENS

Or
- complete the entire word search