Spring 2020
Course Text: Miller & Levine: Biology
Course meeting time: B blocks
Teacher: Mrs. Thimsen
lthimsen@jajags.com

Mission
The mission of Jefferson Academy science department is to foster responsibility and critical thinking through inquiry, investigation, and discovery using scientific reasoning.

Course Description:
This course is designed to give students an understanding of biology, the study of life. This class is meant to excite and deepen students understanding of the world around them. Students will get the opportunity to learn and discover many cool, scientific concepts through the many labs, lessons, and activities we will do. The content will include, but not limited to, cell structure and function, biochemistry, microbiology, genetics, ecology, human biology, zoology, evolution and botany. Laboratory activities will be supplemented by reading and writing assignments as well as projects. Students will learn to collect, manipulate and interpret scientific data. Students will also gain a better understanding of how biology relates to their own lives. My hope is that students will begin to view the world with the eyes of a scientist and want to learn and discover more.

Attendance
Students are expected to be here, ready to go and in assigned seats before the bell rings. Students with absences will be allowed to make up any missed work within two days time for each day missed. It is, however, the student’s responsibility to make up missing assignments and obtain notes or handouts. Please schedule a time to make up any work necessary within the two days following an absence.

Tardy policy
Students should be in the room, seated, fully prepared and working on QTs when the Tardy Bell rings. ANY tardy students will either get less time to work on an activity the class is doing or may receive a zero if it is an activity that has been completed. **Habitual tardiness will result in the following:**

- 1st Tardy-teacher conference/speak with student when appropriate during that class period.
• 2nd Tardy-teacher notifies parent and speaks to the student.
• 3rd Tardy-teacher contacts parent-student receives teacher led detention/consequence.
• 4th Tardy-referral to office.
• 5th Tardy-parent, student and admin meeting at school

Materials
Students will need the following supplies:
loose leaf paper  3 ring binder
pens/pencils  colored pencils
Last name A-M Kleenex or paper towels
Last name N-Z disinfectant wipes like Clorox or Lysol
Optional: 1 bag of candy (I use these for prizes during semester=))

Discipline
Students are expected to follow the student code of conduct at all times as well as classroom rules.

Classroom rules:
1. Be responsible. Take responsibility for your actions and choices; do not engage in blaming others for your inappropriate behavioral choices.
2. Be respectful. Show respect for those around you as well as the environment around you.
3. Be safe. We will often be using lab equipment in class. Please use common sense and follow directions.
4. Be successful. Success is different for each person, but in order to achieve it you need to come to class prepared, with a positive attitude and participate in all class activities.
5. Engage only in positive learning behaviors. Don’t do anything that impedes my ability to teach or impedes the ability of anyone in the classroom to learn.

Students who fail to meet these expectations will face consequences designed to help them focus on and solve whatever problems may be keeping them from participating appropriately in class. These consequences include (1) A verbal warning or written, (2) A brief conference in the hall, and (3) Parental contact. A lunch or after school detention or other consequence may be assigned to students with inappropriate behavior. If the problem cannot be solved at this point, the student will be referred to the Assistant Principal.

Communications
I will do my very best to post student grades weekly online and update my google classroom daily. Students and parents should check grades regularly. Parents with any questions should feel free to e-mail me to discuss any concern or make an appointment to meet with me before or after school. (The best way to communicate with me is through e-mail). Students should always feel free to
come see me with questions or for extra help. I am available before school, after school and during lunch.

**Office Hours**
Students should always feel free to come see me with questions or for extra help. My office hours are as follows;
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings from 7:30-8:00 am
- Monday and Wednesday afternoons 3:20-3:45

*I am also available when needed; do not hesitate to schedule an appointment.*

**Course Grading**
Grades will be determined in the following matter:
- Student work/labs/projects 40%
- Tests and quizzes 48%
- Final 12%

**WHAT DO LETTER GRADES MEAN IN SCIENCE?**

**A** Represents outstanding distinction and excellence.
- These are not impossible to achieve but are rare and difficult to come by.
- 90-100% average on all work and assessments.
- All work completed with care and accuracy.
- Active participation and attendance.
- Actively seek help and guidance when needed.

**B** Signifies levels of solid accomplishment and effort.
- 80-89% average on all work and assessments
- Most work completed with care and accuracy.
- Active participation and attendance.
- Actively seek help and guidance when needed.

**C** Signifies adequate levels of accomplishment and effort.
- 70-79% average on all work and assessments
- Most work completed.
- Reasonable participation.

**D** Represents results less than standard and/or mediocre – just passable
- 60-69% average on all work and assessments
- Some work completed.
- Reasonable participation.
- Should actively seek teacher’s help

**F** Lack of investment in one’s own learning.
- < 59% average on all work and assessments
- Little to no work completed
- May represent lack of effort and participation
- Needs to seek guidance and teacher assistance
**Assignments/Homework**
We will be doing many labs, activities, and projects throughout the semester and I expect students to complete these in the time frame allowed. Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. All homework and assignments will be due at the beginning of class unless otherwise specified. If not turned in at the time it is collected, it will be considered late (this includes assignments not being printed before class etc). Extension will be granted on a case-by case basis if the student meets with me BEFORE the assignment is due. **If an assignment is turned in late, a point deduction of 50% of its earned credit value will be taken. No late work will be accepted after that chapter’s exam.** *I am under no obligation to grade late work immediately as preferential grading will be first given to students' work that has been turned in ON TIME.*

Extensions will be granted on a case-by-case basis if the student meets with me BEFORE the assignment is due.

**Electronics**
Students are allowed to bring electronic devices to class and use them for online labs, research and class discussions. During these times, students will be allowed to have their device out and to be accessing them. If students are found to be using their device for other purposes and/or not during appropriate times, the device will be confiscated and turned in to the office for pick up after school.

**Cell Phone**
- Use will not be permitted in class.
- When you come to class, please put your cell phone into the cell phone holder.
- You may retrieve your phone when the bell rings at the end of class.

**Examinations**
Chapter exams and quizzes will be given frequently in Biology. In addition, there will also be a final exam given at the end of the semester which will be cumulative and will cover the entire semester’s’ information. All students are required to take the final!

**Academic Honesty**
As with any other class, academic honesty is expected. Turning in any work that is not your own, without citation, is considered plagiarism. This includes work from print sources such as books, electronic sources such as the internet, and human sources such as other students. Any student involved in such incidents will face consequences. Students will receive no credit for work determined to be plagiarized and will face appropriate consequences determined by Mrs. Thimsen and the administration.
I have read and understand the above course policies.

______________________________
student name                      date

______________________________
parent/guardian signature          date

Best way to contact you:__

Any other concerns or items that you may want me to know about your student:

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Course outline
I. The Science of Biology - 2 weeks
II. Chemistry of life - 1 week
III. Ecology - 3 weeks
IV. Cell Structure - 1 week
V. Photosynthesis - 1 week
VI. Cell Respiration and Fermentation - 1 week
VII. Cell growth and Division - 1 week
VIII. DNA and RNA and Protein synthesis - 2.5 week
IX. Genetics - 3 weeks
X. Evolution - 1 week

All times are estimates and are subject to change depending on class.