

Biology

Mrs. Galm

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Biology is the study of life; how living organisms function and interact with each other and the earth. In this class, we will explore interesting and engaging topics such as cell biology, genetics, and ecosystem interactions. Through exploring these topics, students will learn to “think like a scientist” and develop scientific reasoning and critical thinking skills.

Suggested Materials

- ✓ Pencils/pens
- ✓ 1” Binder
- ✓ Chromebook
- ✓ Planner

Biology Topics

Semester 1

- ✓ Ecosystem Interactions
- ✓ Biogeochemical Cycles
- ✓ Human Impact & Climate Change

Semester 2

- ✓ Cell Function & Growth
- ✓ Inheritance of Traits & Genetics
- ✓ Evolution

Canvas

Students will use Canvas to navigate the course and turn in work. Students can log into Canvas by using their student ID and password.

Grading Categories

Assessments	70%
Classwork	20%
Routine work	10%

Office Hours/Tutoring

I am available some days during lunch and before school. Please see the schedule posted in my classroom.

Expectations & Tips for Success

- **RESPECT EVERYONE**
- Keep phones in your backpack and out of sight (not in your pocket!)
- Keep your binder organized
- Be engaged and focused
- Ask for help or visit Office hours if you are lost or stuck

Parent Communication

I encourage parents to contact me via email. Grades are updated in Powerschool every night.

School Grade/Citizenship Policies

See Canyon Hills High School’s [Grade/Citizenship Policies](#)

Grading Scale

88 - 100%	A
64 - 87%	B
50 - 63%	C
31 - 49%	D
0 - 30%	F

Classroom Procedures

Start of Class Procedures

At the beginning of each period, students will get their binder from the cabinet and begin working on the warm up in their binders. Students are expected to be in their seats with their binder out and working on the warm-up by the time the bell rings. Warm-ups will be checked at the end of each week. If a student is absent for a warm up, it is their responsibility to check the slides on Canvas and complete it before the Warm-up check on Friday.

Cell Phone Policy

According to district policy, cell phones and headphones are not permitted to be used during class time. These devices should be kept completely away in a backpack (not in a pocket). Failure to comply with the district cell phone policy may result in phone removal, communication with parents, a decreased citizenship grade, and/or a conference with administration. Please see the district website for detailed information on the policy

Classwork (20% of grade) and Routine Work (10% of grade)

The classwork category includes classwork, exit slips, and other activities completed during class-time such as labs and projects. Students will be expected to keep their work organized in their biology binder (which can be kept in the classroom). The routine work category includes weekly warm-up checks and surveys.

Late work

Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date of an assignment. After one week, the assignment will no longer be accepted for credit. No points shall be deducted for late work.

Assessments (70% of grade)

Assessments are assignments that ask students to demonstrate their understanding of a topic or apply their learning. During a typical week of learning, students may be assessed from time to time by taking a mini-quiz or responding to a writing prompt. At the end of each topic (every 5-6 weeks) students will be assessed using a performance task, typically in project-based format. Rubrics are provided for students ahead of time. Due dates are posted on Canvas.

Revisions

All students will have the opportunity to raise their grade by revising classwork and assessments. Students will have one revision attempt per assignment. The revision must be completed the 1-week availability for the assignment (shown on Canvas). If a student is revising an end-of-topic assessment, they must show increased mastery or effort in order to get a higher grade. Partial revisions will not be accepted.

Attendance & Tardies

Students who are absent should visit Canvas and work through the day's module to catch up. Upon returning, students will have one day per excused absence to complete missed work for full credit. All students will be expected to arrive on time to class. If a student accrues more than 2 tardies or 1 unexcused absence throughout the six-week grading period, their citizenship grade will be affected. If tardies become a frequent issue, a meeting may be arranged with parents and/or counselors. Please see the Citizenship Rubric for additional information. Participation, unexcused absences, behavior, and appropriate use of class resources all contribute to each six-week citizenship grade.

Academic Honesty

Cheating (i.e., sharing answers on exams and classwork, plagiarizing projects, and using the internet/AI to get answers) is not tolerated under any circumstances. Consequences may include a "zero" on the assignment for a first offense, along with a U in citizenship. Please see Canyon Hills' Honesty Policy for more information.