**SWIFT CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**2100 PEDRICK ROAD**

**TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317**

**Tel: (850) 414-2670 Fax: (850) 414-2650**

[***www.swiftcreek.k12.fl.us***](http://www.swiftcreek.k12.fl.us)



**COURSE SYLLABUS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course Name**  **Biology Honors (High School Credit)** | **Course Number**  **2000-3200** |
| **Link to Florida Standards (NGSSS)**  <http://www.floridastandards.org/Courses/PublicPreviewCourse69.aspx>  **Link to Common Core Standards**  Common Core Math <http://www.corestandards.org/Math> or Language Arts <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy> | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **COURSE INSTRUCTOR** | **NAME** | **Ashley Murphy** |
| **EMAIL ADDRESS** | murphya@leonschools.net |
| **WEBSITE** | Murphyscience.weebly.com |
| **TELEPHONE CONTACT** | **Please leave your telephone number and a brief message with the school receptionist. Your request for a call back will be forwarded to the teacher by the end of each school day, and your call returned within 24 hours.** |
| **COURSE DESCRIPTION** | The purpose of this course is to give students a solid foundation in biology that can be applied to other high school science courses, including Advanced Placement Biology. Biology is the study of living organisms, but it is divided into many specialized fields. This year, your student will receive a brief overview of many of those fields.  **1st 9-Week Grading Period Content Outline**  We will being the course learning about the **practice of science, the basis of scientific knowledge, and the roles of theories, laws, hypotheses, and models in science** We use this knowledge as we investigate **the chemistry of life, cell structure and function, and cell reproduction (mitosis and meiosis).**  **2nd 9-Week Grading Period Content Outline**  We will continue to study mitosis and meiosis, using our understanding of these topics to discuss **genetics**;we will investigate inheritance, DNA, and biotechnologies used to study these fields.  **3rd 9-Week Grading Period Content Outline**  **Biological Diversity** will be the focus. We will examine the history of life, evolution, and the organization of life. All of this information will prepare us to explore life on Earth by taxonomic categories, from least to most complex. We will begin with **Bacteria, Viruses, Protists, and Fungi**, move on to **Plants**, then to **Invertebrate Animals, Vertebrate Animals**, and finally, the **Human Body**.  **4th 9-Week Grading Period Content Outline**  Last, we will study **Ecology**, learning about the relationships that all organisms share with each other and their environments. After we have finished, we will review all topics covered in order to prepare for the End of Course exam. | |
| **REQUIRED COURSE RESOURCES** | **TEXTBOOK(S)** | Glencoe Biology |
| **MATERIALS** | * 1” Binder with name (will be stored in classroom) * Tabs for notebook (to be used to organize student work by unit topic) * Notebook paper (must stay in science folder) |
| **FEES** | In this science course, your student will be participating in the following labs: Diet Coke and Mentos, Organic Molecule Modeling, Properties of Water, Catalase Enzyme, DNA Extraction DNA Sequencing, Mitosis and Meiosis Lab, DNA Modeling, Blood Type CSI, Evolution Lab and many others as determined by student progress and interest. Please advise that labs are subject to change based on curriculum progression and student performance throughout the year.  In order to purchase the materials needed for these labs, a $5.00 science lab fee will be collected each semester from every student.  Please send in $5.00 to your child’s science teacher for this semester only.  Thank you! |
|
|
| **COURSE/SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS** | **All Swift Creek Middle School teachers expect students to adhere to the Leon County Schools Attendance Policy and Student Code of Conduct, which includes the dress code, and expectations of academic integrity such as cheating and plagiarism. These policies can be found on the Leon County Schools website at** [**www.leon.k12.fl.us**](http://www.leon.k12.fl.us)**, the school website at** [**www.swiftcreek.leon.k12.fl.us**](http://www.swiftcreek.leon.k12.fl.us)**, and in the agenda book distributed to each student.**  **Specific Teacher Expectations:**   * Respect everyone   + Work to solve problems constructively, without violence or abuse   + Keep hands, feet, and objects to self * Begin Bellwork as soon as the bell rings * Follow instructions the first time given * Participate positively in class * Stay on task * Do your best work | |
| **GRADING POLICY** | **Student grades in this course will be weighted by category as follows:**  **50% – Formal Assessments** (Tests, Quizzes, Standard-Checks)  **25% – Investigations** (Lab Reports, Arguments, Lab Assignments, Group Projects)  **25% – Notebook/Portfolio** (Daily Assignments, Bellwork) | |
| **GRADING SCALE** | **In accordance with Leon County School Board policy, 9-week grades will be assigned as described below.**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **LETTER GRADE** | **NUMERICAL GRADE** | **MEANING OF GRADE** | | **A** | **90 – 100** | *Student displays mastery of course content.* | | **B** | **80 – 89** | *Student has a good understanding of course content. There is room for student improvement.* | | **C** | **70 – 79** | *Student is successful with most assignments. Gaps may exist in the understanding of difficult topics. Tutorials and/or attention to good study habits may be necessary.* | | **D** | **60 – 69** | *Student is having difficulty with course content, assistance is necessary for student improvement.* | | **F** | **0 – 59** | *Student has major difficulty with course content. Immediate intervention is necessary.* | | |
| **HOMEWORK** | Homework will be assigned when necessary to enhance student learning. Although I attempt to give out a little homework as possible, students are expected to devote some time to studying the material each week. This is a high school course that requires the student to study in order to be successful. | |
| **MAKE-UP WORK PROCEDURE** | **Leon County School Board Policy allows students to make up work within a reasonable amount of time after returning to school following an excused absence. The allotted time will be determined by district policy and communicated by the teacher to both parent(s) and the student.**  Students will have access to make-up work via the class website and the make –up work folder in class. Students who are sick will have the number of days they are out to complete their assignments. For example, a student who is out Wednesday will have until Friday to turn in work due Thursday. This does not apply to homework due the day of the absence. | |
| **LATE WORK POLICY** | Late work will be accepted with a penalty of 15% for each late day, up to three days. | |
| **ASSIGNMENT RE-DO POLICY/PROCEDURE** | Students may not retake tests or re-do classwork or projects. There may be test correction opportunities or redemption assignments available if the entire class is struggling or if a student has a demonstrated need (not studying is not demonstrated need). | |
| **EXTRA HELP OPPORTUNITIES** | Students can always receive extra help. Mrs. Murphy is available at a variety of times by appointments before and after school. | |