**Biology Syllabus- Mrs. Alston**

**Course Description:** A Biology curriculum focuses on the study of life and its function. Emphasis will be placed on ecology, cells, evolution, DNA, genetics and biotechnology. This class will engage the student in hands on projects and will also incorporate science literacy.

**Topics to be covered:** a full detail list can be viewed at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/science/biology.pdf>

Essential Standard 1.1- Understand the relationship between the structures and functions of cells and their organelles.

Essential Standard 1.2- Analyze the cell as a living system

Essential Standard 2.1 Analyze the interdependence of living organisms within their environments

Essential Standard 2.2 Understand the impact of human activities on the environment (one generation affects the next.

Essential Standard 3.1- Explain how traits are determined by the structure and function of DNA.

Essential Standard 3.2 Understand how the environment and /or the interaction of alleles, influences the expression of genetic traits.

Essential Standard 3.3 Understand the application of DNA technology

Essential Standard 3.4 Explain the theory of evolution by natural selection as a mechanism for how species change over time.

Essential Standard 3.5 Analyze how classification systems are developed based upon speciation.

Essential Standard 4.1 Understand how biological molecules are essential to the survival of living organisms

Essential Standard 4.2 Analyze the relationships between biochemical processes and energy use in the cell.

**Requirements for Biology**

**Students must make at least 3 (out of 5) on the Cumulative Biology State final exam in order to pass the class. State final exam counts for 20% of the average**

**Supplies**

Pen/Pencils

Erasers

100-page Composition notebook

Color pencils

**Grading scale**

**Test/Projects- 35%**

**Classwork, homework, 45%**

**Quizzes 20%**

**Classroom Philosophy:**

This classroom is its own world; we have our won rules, and we treat each other differently in here than we do before we walk through the door. We can attribute this to respect. While in class, we are expected to respect one another; I expect you to treat each other well, and respect each other’s right to learn. It is our responsibility to ensure that we can coexist in the best learning environment. All of our expectations are based on respect: For each other, for the class, and for anyone who interacts with us while in class.

We must work together to create and maintain a classroom where we are comfortable taking risks and strive to gain knowledge every day.

**Signing all work:**  All work must be turned it with a name. If a student fails to sign their name, there will be a zero in the grade book for that assignment.

**Binders:** All students are to keep interactive science binder that is neatly organized. These will be graded. **The binder will serve as the end of course study guide.**

**Homework:** Homework will be given out sparingly; if I feel extra time is needed for a subject. All homework will be graded. Assignments are expected to be turned in on the due date.

**Tutoring/extra help:** Students who want or need extra help may see me after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If this time is not suitable please make time to see me so that we may discuss a suitable time. Do not wait until the day of or the day before a test or an assignment is due to seek help.

**For Test/ Quizzes:**

If a student scored below a 70%, he /she can retake the assignment for a max of 70%. Bonus tutoring/practice will be provided for anyone who wishes to re-take a test.

**Attendance policy**

No student will be allowed to leave the class the first and last 15mins of class. Each student is responsible for coming to me to get any make up work upon coming back to class. If a student is tardy more than 3 times they will receive a write up and have to spend a day in ISS. Students are expected be in class every day. Students must make up any days over 3days.

**Hall Passes:** Students are encouraged to use the restroom/get water **in between** classes. Students will only receive **2 Bathroom passes per quarter.** After both passes are used, the student will not be allowed to leave the class except for in the case of an emergency.

**Dress Code** in this class we abide by Ragsdale dress code which is addressed in the student handbook and I will check each student as they walk into the classroom each day to verify they are dressed appropriate.

**Parental Contact:** Phone calls will be made on a regular basis. Students will receive progress reports. Parents are welcome to schedule conferences.

**Student conference:** Students are welcome and encouraged to schedule an appointment to discuss grades, performance, and/or problems in class. Class time is not the time to discuss your progress or grades.

**Food and drink is prohibited in class.**

**Students must come to class prepared to learn; this includes having all the necessary material (textbook, notebook, pen, pencils, etc.) and assignments completed and ready to turn in. Points will be deducted for any work that is not turned in on the date it is due. I will not take incomplete work or nay work that does not show concerted effort!**

**Class Expectations**

It is expected that every student show respect to all people and property in the classroom. Each student is guaranteed the right to an education, and disruptive behavior on the part of any student cannot be tolerated. We are here to grow in both knowledge and in maturity, to this end we agree to adhere to the following standards:

**While in the classroom, I will:**

* Keep my head up
* Refrain from talking to my peers about unrelated topics
* Raise my hand if I have a question or comment
* Stay in my seat unless I ask for [permission
* Silence & put away my cell phone/electronic devices
* Adhere to the school’s dress code

**During Lecture or Solo Work, I will:**

* Remain silent
* Attempt to complete the work in its entirety
* Keep my eyes on my own paper

**During Group Work, I will:**

* Discuss the work with my group mates
* Contribute to my group’s discussion
* Actively Participate
* Give everyone a chance to help

**When a class mate has been called on, I will:**

* Remain silent
* Give that student my full attention

**I will not:**

* Shout out
* Curse in the classroom
* Tap my pencil/hands/feet to make noise
* Eat or drink in the classroom
* Arrive to class late
* Break any school rules

**If I break any of these expectations, I understand and agree that:**

1. I will receive a warning
2. I will call home & explain my behavior to my parent/guardian
3. I will be given a referral to the office
4. A violation of any major rule, such as fighting or illegal substance possession will immediately be escalated to #3.

**Additionally, I will:**

* Answer in complete sentences when applicable
* Put my name on any paper I turn in
* Keep my book bag off my desk
* Immediately start work on the warmup as I enter class

**Course Contract**

In order for everyone involved in this course to be successful, we must all make a commitment to each other and to ourselves.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the course syllabus sand expectations. I understand my role as a student and my responsibilities concerning my success. I understand that my teacher will do everything he can to not only teach me the content of the course, but also to help me understand the value of social responsibility, accountability, and the importance of community. I also hereby swear to uphold the honor code as describe in the Ragsdale Student handbook. If at any point I have questions or concerns about the class, I will ask my instructor.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the course description and expectations. I understand my roles and responsibilities in helping my student become as successful as possible. I will do all I can to support my student in this course academically, socially, and behaviorally. If in the event I have any questions or concerns, I will contact the instructor to resolve them.

Dear Parent, please provide your current address and the most reliable phone# in which I can contact you. If you have access to email, please provide your current email address.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: Valencia Alston\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have designed this course to allow every student to be successful both in the classroom and in life beyond high school. I will do all that I can to help every student reach their highest potential. I will always act with fairness and impartiality and do what we deem is best for each individual student. I will always be open to questions, concerns and comments in order to help everyone work together for the success of all students.

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_