

**OLA HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
BIOLOGY SYLLABUS**

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Course Description: Biology is the study of living things. Biology allows the learner an opportunity to explore many aspects of life such as: science process skills, laboratory safety, cell structure and processes, homeostasis, biochemistry, photosynthesis and respiration, genetics, evolution, classification, ecology, and diversity of life. Our study of biology will include the study of microscopic individual organisms as well as the study of the global interactions of millions of organisms. As a high school biology student, you should expect to gain in-depth knowledge of the different living organisms and the environments they each live in to better protect, sustain or enhance the natural environment.

Biology has four major units of study: Cells, Heredity, Evolution, and Ecology.

Grading Policy and Procedures:

- Assessments - 40%. These are any tests or quizzes and are announced in advance.
- Practice Assignments - 40%. These are assignments completed in class that are designed to help master concepts.
- Final Exam (first semester)/End of Course Milestones (second semester) - 20%. These are cumulative in nature.

You can expect at least one graded assignment per week.

90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 74-79 = C; 70-73 = D; Below 70 = F

Benchmarks

A cumulative benchmark assessment will be administered after nine weeks each semester, one in the fall and one in the spring. While these are designed for progress monitoring, they will also act as reassessments for prior tests and will replace lower test grades, if applicable. Benchmarks can only improve your grade, not harm it.

Reassessments/Missing Assignments: Tests may be taken again and the higher grade will replace the lower score in the grade book. Reassessments will only take place before or after school and with prior teacher coordination. Additionally, the reassessment has to be taken in the quarter (nine weeks) it was originally administered and missing work must be submitted within the same timeframe.

Needed Materials:

Paper, Pencil, and Notebook

Color pencils (or markers) and highlighters

Charged Chromebook (**cell phones & headphones, i.e., AirPods, etc. will not be permitted during instruction**)

Tardy Procedures: When the bell rings, the door will be closed/locked. You should make your way to the tardy kiosk for a pass to enter the classroom or have a signed pass from a teacher. Frequent tardiness may result in consequences as deemed appropriate by the administrative team.

Dismissal Procedures: Ola High School employs a bell-to-bell instruction practice. Please remain seated until the teacher dismisses you from the classroom (the bell doesn't dismiss you, it serves as a courtesy to the teacher) - do not line up at the door during class time. It is important to stay engaged until the teacher dismisses the class to minimize disruptions.

Success/Study Habits: Spend 15 minutes at a time reading through your notes each night and memorize them. Make flashcards for vocabulary (or use Quizlet). If needed, go see your biology teacher (or a different one) before or after school for help. Complete your study guide correctly! Besides your digital textbook (HMH Resources found on Classlink), a good place to learn biology online is <https://biomanbio.com/students.html>.

Parent Portal: The Infinite Campus parent portal provides an opportunity for parents or guardians to access their child's grades via the internet. Please follow the instructions found on the Campus Portal page by going to the Henry County website (www.henry.k12.ga.us) and clicking on the "Parents" tab to get to the portal page. In addition to Infinite Campus, our graduation coach will send student grade reports to all students and parents each week via email.

Make-Up Work Policy: In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to collect and make up work from the teacher. The student will have as many days as they were absent to make up and turn in the work (example: if a student misses one day, they will have one day from the day they return to turn in the make-up work; if they miss two days, they will have two days to turn in the work to earn full credit for work missed).

Class Website: The class website will be Google Classroom and will be your resource to stay on track with assignments and to catch up whenever you are absent or miss something during class. It will be updated on a regular basis. Note: Google Classroom is not designed to replace in-person learning. You will grasp a deeper understanding of the material by consistently attending class.

Laptops and Cell Phones: All technology-related assignments will utilize the HP Chromebook assigned by the Henry County Schools. Students are expected to charge their Chromebooks at home each evening. Please do not assume you can charge it in class. Students will not be allowed to use cell phones during class. Cell phones should be kept in the cell phone caddy. Failure to do so will result in the following consequences:

- 1st Offense – warning
- 2nd Offense – office referral