

Course: Biology – College Prep
Teacher: Ms. Litterio-Foster
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Text: Biology by Holt, Rinehart & Winston
Year: 2011 – 2012

WRHS School Mission Statement:

"Wachusett Regional High School is committed to an educational process that fosters independence and responsibility in our students. By offering diverse, challenging, academic programs and rich co-curricular activities, WRHS strives to provide students with the skills and knowledge to achieve their potential as life-long learners."

WRHS Science Department Philosophy:

The WRHS Science Department strives for excellence in the science education of all its graduates. We recognize the fact that science is a human endeavor designed to achieve an increasingly comprehensive and reliable understanding of the human species and its environment. Scientific literacy is an important key to a functioning, technology-based society.

Course Description:

A full year course designed for the college preparatory student. The goal of the course is the student's understanding of the living world. Learning is achieved in integrated ways by active participation in the process of science through hands-on activities, laboratory work, class discussions and cooperative learning. The course requires a high reading comprehension and good mathematics background. The main topics covered are the Scientific Method, the chemical basis of life, the Cell Theory with emphasis on cell processes, energy in living systems, the Chromosome Theory of Inheritance, genetics, the evolution of life and taxonomy. Students who attend class regularly, study at home and keep up with assignments are very successful in this course.

Grading:

Grading is determined on a points basis. Lab papers, assignments and quizzes are given a small number of points (ex.10 or 25 points). Tests are generally worth 100 points. The amount of material covered and level of difficulty corresponds to the amount of points that the assignment is worth. At the end of the term, the total number of assigned points is divided into the number of points earned by the student and a percentage or average is obtained.

Science Department Homework Policy:

"The WRHS Science Department believes that homework is necessary to help our students achieve at the high academic level necessary for college preparation. Schoolwork done outside of class time provides training in study habits, skills and discipline; it reinforces and increases background knowledge and conceptual understanding, and it provides experiences in problem solving and self-monitoring. In particular, it provides students with an opportunity for them to take personal responsibility for their own achievement."

Homework assignments must be completed before the class period that they are due. Late assignments will be accepted no more than one day after they are due. The maximum amount of

credit one can earn on a late assignment will be 50% of the earned grade. Late assignments will not receive any credit if the assignment has been covered in class.

Any missed labs will need to be made up within one week of the lab or the student will earn a zero for the lab. I will schedule the day for after school lab make-ups.

If you are absent on the day of a test or a quiz, you are expected to take the make-up the day you return to school. Make-up tests and quizzes may consist of essay and short answer questions.

Classroom expectations:

Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Late students without a pass will earn a detention. Students are expected to have notebooks and necessary materials with them every day. A three-ringed binder is recommended for the many hand-outs, worksheets and other supplements given out in class. These papers should be kept organized for review purposes and for use in class. Students should read the text and use it as a supplement to their class notes. Students should read over their notes on a daily basis. Students will work in small groups and are expected to cooperate and interact with classmates. No electronic devices are allowed in class - cell phones, iPods and other electronics will be confiscated if seen/heard in class. Outside of snack time, food and drink are not allowed during class. Food and drink are never allowed in the lab area of the classroom for health and safety reasons.

General Information:

It is the student's responsibility to obtain class assignments prior to attending fieldtrips. The work must be completed on time; otherwise this will count as an absence according to Wachusett's Attendance policy.

Plagiarism or copying of any material as well as cheating will not be tolerated. All individuals involved will earn a zero. Parents and the appropriate administrator will be notified.

I will be available for make-ups and to answer questions after school in room D116. I do not have a set day that I stay for help and make-ups. Weekly I will announce to the class which afternoon I will be available after school. Please let me know in advance if you are planning on staying.

If parents need to reach me they can email me or call the school (508-829-6771) and notify the student's guidance counselor.

Please read the attached Laboratory Safety Rules and then sign, date and return the Acknowledgement Page to Ms. Litterio-Foster.

Acknowledgement Page

I acknowledge having received and understand the terms outlined in the **CP Biology Syllabus**, as well as, the **Laboratory Safety Rules** and will abide by all rules and expectations as set forth.

Please sign, date and return to Ms. Litterio-Foster

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date _____