

Biology – Fall 2010 - Room # 217  
Mrs. Golenberke  
[mgolenberke@conneautsd.org](mailto:mgolenberke@conneautsd.org)  
website: <http://websites.pdesas.org/mgolenberke/>



Dear Students & Parents,  
Welcome! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the course requirements and expectations for Biology.

#### **WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:**

In Biology we will study such topics as characteristics and chemical organization of life, cell structure, function, energy, growth & organisms; genetics & heredity; evolution; and a brief overview of viruses and of the six kingdoms. We will be using both microscopes & computers to aid us in viewing & reinforcing concepts. You will do a variety of labs & activities and will sometimes be required to produce reports with computer-generated tables & charts.

Please refer to the new course syllabus for the Conneaut School District.



#### **We have (almost) new textbooks!**

Students are also responsible for keeping a cover on their textbook. You may bring in your own or one will be provided for you. You will also be able to access your textbook online – at home or at school. I will provide directions for the website as well as your login & password.



#### **BINDER:**

Each student will be required to provide & keep a three ring binder to keep notes & other class work neat & organized. If acquiring a binder is a problem please let me know & I will gladly provide one for you. I will check notebooks periodically throughout the semester. I will not give you a notebook rubric for specific grading, but there are two general rules:

- keep all assignments/notes dated & in some order
- if it is on colored paper, it should be in the front of your binder

#### **THE "PLAN"**

Also, for each chapter you will receive a "weekly/chapter/unit plan" which will let you know the plan, objectives & assignments (with point amount & due date) for each day – it will be on colored paper. This can be useful if you are absent or for those of you in sports and other extracurricular activities - or just to keep track of your grade or work ahead. Keep in mind that with block scheduling missing one day is actually like missing two. Furthermore, you will be able to access the plan on Edline under "assignments." Even furthermore, my web page should include not only what we are doing in class, but also plans & objectives with links to assignments so that they are available to you outside of class.

#### **GRADES & EDLINE:**

→The point system will be used to calculate grades. At the end of each six-week grading period, the total number of points earned by the student will be divided by the total possible amount. This number will be converted to a percentage. Points will be earned through homework (note guides and section reviews), class work, quizzes, tests, notes/vocabulary, book drawings & questions, article summaries, lab work & presentations. Specific rubrics will be provided for most assignments. As we progress, you will see that you will have the opportunity to accumulate quite a few points total throughout the semester - the more assignments/points, the less impact one single test quiz, assignment, etc. will have on your grade.

→As you did last year, you will be able to access your grades online through Edline. Please look for your username/password information to be mailed to your home. Please do not ask me for your grades during class.



### RULES:

My classroom rules are simple: Be on time, prepared, positive, polite & respectful.



### MORE IMPORTANT RULES:

- ✓ Do your best
- ✓ Never give up
- ✓ Enjoy learning (Biology)

### LATE WORK:

Work should be handed in on time. I will accept late work for two days after it is due with an automatic 1/3 taken off the possible points, before corrections. If you are absent you have two days for every day you are absent to turn in work (Example: if you miss Monday, your work will be due on Wednesday- if you hand in the work on Thursday I will deduct 1/3).

### SAFETY:

- You will be required to read through a copy of the safety rules & sign that you understand & agree to follow them.
- There will be no horseplay since this can be very dangerous in a lab situation - you will be removed from the lab (to the office) with the possibility of making up the lab alone at a later time.
- Due to the chemicals and various organisms we will be studying throughout the year, food or drink in the classroom may be limited.



### CHEATING:

Cheating: to practice fraud or deceit, to violate rules or regulations, to take an examination (or complete assignments) in a dishonest way as by improper access to answers.

(misleading, victimizing, receiving an unfair advantage)

Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in zeros for both the person copying and the person allowing the other to copy. Parents will be notified.

I am very excited about teaching Biology, although as an educator & parent, I understand that there is more to life than what occurs within my classroom. Please feel free to share with me any questions &/or concerns you may have (both academic & other) throughout the year. Please sign below that you have read & understand the expectations so I/we are all (literally) on the same page.

Best wishes for a successful semester!  
Mrs. Golenberke

Do not cut off the bottom

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I have read the requirements & expectations for Mrs. Golenberke's Biology class & agree to follow rules, procedures & directions; and behave in an appropriate manner

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*this signed sheet should be kept in your binder for reference (it is on colored paper!)*