**Pre AP Biology**

**Mrs. Boyd Room 1**

**Course Description:**

Pre-AP Biology is a first year High School Biology course, which is a pre-requisite for Advanced Placement (AP) Biology.  Biology is a hands on course using unique learning techniques to introduce the student to the structure of matter, its changes and the energy involved in supporting life, the different forms of life, and the interconnections of abiotic and biotic factors.  A comprehensive approach to learning will be emphasized.  **Students MUST STUDY at home to internalize the concepts and gain problem solving skills.**

**Course Goals:**

This course is designed to give students an understanding of all that composes life on Earth.

Students will gain:

* Knowledge of various theories and scientific laws.
* Appreciation of the various ways organisms and the environment can affect our world.
* Skills in using the scientific method to solve problems and design experiments
* Knowledge and practical application of laboratory safety and laboratory techniques.
* Skills in collection, processing, and evaluating laboratory data, and scientific writing.

**Classroom Supplies:**

Binder with divider pages, pen/pencil, composition  notebook, $15.00 lab fee

**Grades:**

Due to the level of content being taught, Pre AP Biology is Weighted on a 5.0 grading scale. Refer to the student handbook for more information.

* Major Grades: 65% (Unit Tests, lab folder/ write ups, and Quizzes)
* Minor Grades:  35% (Data Set Questions, Math Questions, Synthesis Questions)
* Mid-Term and Final Exams are 25% of the nine weeks average

**You will be required to:**

1. Keep an **organized** notebook.
2. Participate in daily warm-up/bell ringer activities.  These are not optional and will be taken up periodically.
3. Participate in class and take notes during lectures.  Not all information will come from the text.
4. Follow all safety rules during labs.
5. Stay awake!  All sleepyheads will receive a zero.
6. You are responsible for making up all work missed when absent from a class for **any** reason.  Students have three days to schedule makeup work upon returning.  No assignments will be made up after the scheduled make up date has passed.  Failure to turn in make-up work will result in a zero.

**Class Rules:**

1. All school rules apply in this classroom.
2. **CELL PHONES:  Cell phone usage during class is NOT allowed unless directed by the teacher.**
3. Be in your seat and ready to work when the tardy bell rings.
4. Bring class materials to class every day.  You will NOT be allowed to return to your locker.
5. You must have your planner with you at all times. You will not be allowed to leave the room without it. You will be given 2 passes per nine weeks. You will be granted those at MY discretion.
6. Your full attention is expected and no other work will be done during this class.
7. CHEATING=NO CREDIT!
8. If you are absent the day before a pre-announced test, you MUST take the test on the previously announced day.  An absence is not an excuse for turning in a project late when you have been given sufficient time to turn it in.
9. Labs should not be missed.  All lab work must be completed in pencil.  3 points will be deducted if done in pen.  If labs are missed, you will take a test on the lab subject material.
10. Make up work:  Make up day for tests is Thursday after school; you have three days upon returning after your absence to complete make-up work.  A grade of “0” is recorded if work is not made up within the appropriate time.
11. No one will be disrespectful or act inappropriately; consequences will be enforced.
12. All assignments are due on the day they are assigned.
13. Do not lean back in chairs or move the tables; stay in your assigned seats at all times.  You will not be allowed to stand at the door before or at the end of class.
14. No food or drinks in class….and NO, we are not going to the snack machine or to the lunchroom.
15. Substitutes:  You will treat all substitutes with respect.  You are to be helpful and do all your work as per her/his instruction.  You will remain seated and not ask questions such as “May we go to the snack machine.”  The answer is NO!
16. **Keep this syllabus in the front of your binder at all times.  Return the signature sheet and lab contract sheet to Mrs. Boyd.**

**CONSEQUENCES:**

Failure to abide by rules will result in teacher detention, isolation, counselor referrals, or office referrals.  For minor offenses, you will receive one warning before disciplinary action occurs.

**TEACHER CONTACT:**

* Telephone: (256) 331-2110 ext. 1001**;** Please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.
* E-mail:  heather.boyd@rcs.k12.al.us
* Grades will also be accessible on iNOW.  The power points used in class are also available on my website.