



Classroom Guidelines for
"SC49 Biology"
with Mr. Kirsch

Here's the definition of "quality work" in this classroom:

**"Quality is: the best you can do,
completely finished, on time."**

This is an important concept that will be stressed throughout the year. I expect nothing less from you. If you learn to do quality work all of the time, you will achieve success in this class while learning science along the way.

Course Description:

Biology is a yearlong science lab course. You will earn 1 credit towards graduation requirements upon successful completion. We will study and discover many things about the biosphere. We will investigate the principles that govern living things including Scientific method process skills, classifications, biochemistry, cellular energy, reproduction, transportation, genetics, homeostasis, ecological relationships, evolution, and body systems.

Inquiry Activities:

Inquiry ("doing science") will be an important part of this course, because it allows:

- development of critical thinking and problem solving skills
- integration of technology including microscopes, water baths, and other equipment
- experimental labs and outside project assignments
- **DISSECTION WILL BE A PART OF THIS CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THE YEAR.**

Materials Required:

- Textbook (you will have one to take and keep at home)
- 3-ring binder (may be shared with other classes; Biology should have a section)
- Pencil/pens/highlighter - Colored pencils
- Spiral Notebook for lecture notes - Graph paper
- Notebook paper - Calculator
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MATERIALS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY AUGUST 15th.

Written Work

- Homework will be given several times a week.
- All work must be done neatly. Work that is not legible will not be accepted.
- **Late assignments will NOT be accepted.**
- Always use complete sentences.
- Copying is NOT tolerated.
- All assignments must be completely finished for full credit.

Grading

- All class work, labs, quizzes, tests, and projects will be given a point value. Point values will vary depending on the amount of work involved. Letter grades are based on a percentage of the total points possible. **Grades will be written in planners on Fridays.**
- Occasionally extra credit will be given. It will have a minor impact on your grade, at best.
- The grading scale is as follows:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D 0-59% = F.

Participation/Attendance/Make-up work

- A significant part of your grade in biology will come from your individual participation in class and collaborative work; therefore **attendance** is important for your success in Biology.
- It is the responsibility **of the student** to find out what was missed and obtain a copy of all handouts and notes.
- If a lab is missed, a time must be scheduled for a make-up lab. This must be done **within a week** of the absence, as equipment must be taken down and/or used for other activities.
- Assignments can only be made up if the absence is **excused**.

Behavior

- All school wide and district policies apply within this classroom.
- Inappropriate behavior will be dealt with through the school wide discipline plan. Infractions may result in a student conference, call home, after school detention, administrative contact and/or removal from class.
- Have **necessary** materials each day. This is your responsibility, not your classmate's or your teacher's. Lack of materials will result in the loss of Class Participation points,
- **If cell phones or other electronic devices are heard or seen, they will be confiscated!**
- It is in your best interest to keep papers, handouts, quizzes, and, most importantly, notes until the end of the course. These materials will also allow you to keep track of your grade and prepare you for both the AIMS test and the course final exam.
- **THE TEACHER, NOT THE BELL**, dismisses class.

Classroom Wish List

Given the realities of the typical school budget, I would request the following items in order to enhance the learning possibilities for the year (this is optional, but appreciated):

White board markers, facial tissues, disposable paper cups, potting soil, and 2 liter bottles (rinsed thoroughly PLEASE). Throughout the year other recycled items will be requested upon occasion.

I enjoy teaching science, the life sciences such as Biology in particular, and I hope you enjoy this class. Following these guidelines will help you do quality work and be successful. Remember, if you need extra help, please feel free to ask during class or stop in before or after school. **You are in high school now, and it is up to you to seek assistance when you are having trouble.** The Science AIMS test is this April, and we will maintain a brisk pace in order to cover the curriculum by that time. If you are having trouble keeping up, ask for help! I will be available for tutoring at least twice each week.

Disclaimer: Any of these guidelines are subject to change at the discretion of the teacher.