IB Biology Year 2

Syllabus

2016-17

Course Guidelines

Instructor: Dr. Christina Bowers

Meridian Phone: (512) 660-5230

E-mail: c.bowers@mwschool.org

(**E-mail is the easiest way to contact me**)

Tutorial Times: 7:45 Mondays

4:05 Thursdays

Conference Periods: 1st (8:30-10:03) A-Days

7th (11:48-1:18) B-Days

**Course Description:**

Students in the biology IB Diploma Program (DP) will explore key concepts through a comprehensive and rigorous curriculum that spans 2 years. Life-defining interactions at the molecular level set the stage for understanding the nature of life, from cells to individuals, populations, and communities in the environment. In addition to building skills through set practical lab activities, students will engage in authentic scientific inquiry through individual and collaborative investigations. DP biology will foster an appreciation for the importance of biodiversity and the interdependence of all life in the biosphere and will equip students with the understanding needed to act on issues of local and global concern.

**Course Resources:**

Main Text: Allott, Andrew. *et. al*. Biology. 2014 ed. Oxford University Press.

Optional: Allott, Andrew. IB Biology Study Guide. 2014 ed. Oxford University Press. (Can be purchased from Amazon).

Class website: *www.curiouscience.com*

**Required Supplies:**

* Spiral notebook for note-taking and composition notebook for lab activities, pens, pencils (colored and regular), and a scientific calculator.
* The main text *and* supplies listed above should be brought to class every day.

**Grading:**

* Grades are based on a 50/50 distribution of major (tests/lab reports/projects) and minor (quizzes/homework/classwork) assessments.
* Students are allowed to re-attempt major assessments for a maximum score of 70%. Re-attempts are student responsibility and must be requested via e-mail no later than 1 class day past the date returned to the student. Tutorial attendance prior to re-takes is required.
* Extra Credit when available, will affect the minor grade average.
* Due to the rigorous nature of the IB diploma program a curve system may be applied to major assessments.

**Behavior Expectations:**

A principled student puts forth their best effort, strives for a positive attitude and abides by the MWS honor code. Students are encouraged to attend tutorials and to communicate confusion promptly in order to avoid falling behind. Throughout the program, students will learn strategies to help them reach their academic and personal goals. This course covers both standard and higher level content. Due to the breadth of topics covered, a high degree of student independence is expected. In the second year of the program students will commit to the higher or standard level exam for biology, after which, enrichment and revision activities will be provided while additional higher level content is taught.

Plagiarism, including the copying of homework answers, is considered a serious violation and will result in prompt disciplinary action for all involved parties.

Students are expected to observe all safety guidelines. Disruptive behavior is any action that impedes the learning or creates a safety hazard for fellow students and will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in unsafe behaviors will be subject to prompt removal from the laboratory setting. Failure to observe safety guidelines may result in a loss of laboratory privileges.

**Late Work and Make-up Work:**

In general for excused absences, students have as many class days as missed to make up work. Late work will be assessed a penalty of 10 points per school day, with a maximum penalty of 50 points. Late work will not be accepted after the conclusion of an academic unit of study (ie, after the major assessment). Work missed during unexcused absences will be treated as late.

**Unit Calendar:**

The comprehensive topic sequence is available on the class website: [www.curiouscience.com](http://www.curiouscience.com). The two year course overview is shown below.

**Year 1                                                          Year 2**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fall | Core Content  (SL) | Additional Higher Level  (HL) | Core Content  (SL) | Additional Higher Level  (HL) |
|  | Cell Biology |  | Genetics |  |
|  | Molecular Biology |  | Evolution and Biodiversity | Genetics and Evolution |
|  |  |  | Internal Assessment |  |
| Spring |  |  |  |  |
|  | Metabolic pathways | Metabolic pathways | Human Physiology | Human Physiology |
|  | Ecology | Plant Physiology | Group 4 Project |  |
|  |  |  | Neuroscience | Neuroscience |

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**Verification of Receipt**

I strive to provide quality, engaging learning experiences in my classroom. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I value communication.

Sincerely,

Christina Bowers

*I have read and understand the policies covered in Dr. Bowers’ IB DP Biology Course.*

*Print Student’s Name Print Parent/Guardian’s Name*

*Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature*

**Optional**:

I/we grant permission for this student’s photo/image to be published on the class and/or MWS website.

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

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

I/we grant permission for this student to utilize twitter or other social media tools to provide real-time updates on class projects and investigations, where applicable.

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

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