

# GSIC High School Biology Syllabus

2021-2022 School Year

**Instructor:** Ms. Marie Warren mwarren@gsiccharter.com

**Parents:** The best way to contact me is through email, I do my best to answer your questions within a day.

**The course curriculum is based on the state's biology curriculum and is designed to prepare students for the Georgia Milestones Biology EOC Assessment at the end of the year.**

**Please note: the Georgia Biology EOC Assessment will be worth 20% of the final course grade.**

## I. Course Description and Requirements

This course includes laboratory work, study of specimens, projects, and a thorough understanding of scientific inquiry. Course content encompasses interrelationships of living things, levels of biological organization, cellular biology, biochemistry, genetics, and evolution. Students should be prepared to conduct projects and write a formal lab report. Instruction centers around inquiry-based learning that is incorporated into class activities. Learning activities include teacher-lead instruction, group work, student seatwork, project-based learning, and lab exercises with both student-choice and teacher-choice grouping. Students can expect to start each day with a bell ringer assignment followed by learning activities and/or lecture. At times students will work independently from the teacher in order to achieve student autonomy expected of upper school students. Classes are structured to utilize every minute for learning and assessing understanding. Real world application is a daily objective. Higher-level thinking will be incorporated into each lesson as well as use of technology when applicable to increase student achievement. Students are expected to participate in all activities and actively engage and ask questions during teacher-led lecture. Students are also expected to review and study the content covered in class outside of school daily.

## II. Class Expectations

- Students are expected to **be present** and active members of the classroom each and every day.
- Students are expected to come to class **prepared** with all necessary materials and completed assignments to learn and participate in all lectures and activities.
- Students are expected to **be respectful** of the teacher, the classroom, and their peers.

## III. Class Discipline

Students who are not acting present, coming prepared, and being respectful will earn one of the following consequences:

- Warning in class
- Removal from class activity AND parent contact
- Written referral and removal from class AND parent contact

Any student caught cheating on an assignment will receive a zero and referred to the Principal.

(SEE REVERSE)

#### IV. Required Materials

All students must come to class each day with the following materials:

- Their charged chromebook
- A three-ringed binder with 7 dividers, paper, and their NOTES PACKET (this will be provided to them) for each unit!!!
- Pencil and/or pen

#### V. Assessment and Grading Plan

We will cover seven units over the course of the year. Each unit consists of 1-4 summative assessments (tests and projects). The amount of formative assessments (classwork, homework, quizzes, etc) varies per unit, as well as lab assignments. All unit tests are cumulative and include both multiple choice and open response questions. **Note: Assignments checked for completion will not be accepted late. Assignments collected and graded for accuracy will be accepted late with a penalty of 10% off every day late.**

*\*\*Under absolutely NO circumstances will late work be accepted after the completion of the unit the work is from, unless the student had an excused absence in which case they receive only 5 calendar days to turn in the work.*

#### Formative Assessments - 25%

- *Classwork/Informal labs:* Each unit is packed with engaging activities and practice to help master the content. These assignments range from 15-100 points, depending on the length and depth of the material.
- *Daily quizzes:* At the start of each day the students will complete a small quiz over content covered during the previous class period. Students who were absent the previous class period will not be expected to complete the quiz the day they return if it is over content they missed.
- *Study guides:* Students will be required to make study guides for each test to help them review the material each day and prepare for the unit tests. Study guides will be made off of the first sheet of each packet by answering the objectives and defining the vocabulary for each concept. Every concept study guide is worth 10 points. Students who make A's on two tests in a row are exempt from completing study guides if they continue to maintain A's on the unit tests.

#### Summative Assessments – 40%

- *Unit Tests:* All unit tests are cumulative and include both multiple choice and open response questions.
- *Projects:* Students will complete at least 1 project per quarter, some being individual and some being groupwork based

#### Labs and Presentations – 35%

- *Labs:* Each unit will have several lab activities. Some will be written up formally while others will be completed more informally. Students will receive specific instructions on what is expected for each lab.
- *Presentations:* Students will occasionally be asked to present their projects, classwork, or other assignments for a presentation grade. The intent is to build confidence in speaking and to give an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the material outside of written assignments.

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*Please sign and return the bottom portion by Monday Sept 13th*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Preferred Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_