Instructor Contact
Mrs. Kelly Brown
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Class Website: http://www.brownbiology.com
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Required Supplies
• $5 lab fee
• 3-ring binder (1-1⅜ inch)
• Notebook tabs
• Notebook Paper
• Pencils

Course Content and Topics

FALL
• Introduction
• Biochemistry
• Cell Structure and Function
• Cell Cycle and Mitosis
• Plants/Photosynthesis/Respiration
• DNA/RNA/Protein Synthesis

SPRING
• Meiosis/Genetics
• Biotechnology
• Evolution
• Ecology
• Taxonomy/Classification
• Human Body Systems

Student Expectations
• Be on time and prepared for class! This includes your notebook, writing materials, and any assignments that are due.
• Be attentive and participatory in class! (This includes taking notes, asking questions, participating in class discussions, and being actively involved in labs.)
• Follow directions the first time given.
• Be respectful toward your teachers, your peers, and the equipment in our classroom.
• Keep all materials not pertaining to our class put away.

Consequences
• First Offense = Verbal warning
• Second Offense = Verbal warning and parent contact
• Third Offense = Administrative referral
• Other consequences include: lunch detention, lab clean-up duty, unannounced quizzes, ISS, or suspension.

Grading
• This class will utilize standards based grading. At the beginning of a unit, students will be given a list of “learning targets” that are constructed around the standards and will be used to assess student learning.
For every learning target, students will have three performance measures:

- A Homework Assignment OR Lab Assignment OR Class Assignment - these assignments will be entered into Category 1 in the grade book (see below).
- A Learning Check - this is basically a quiz that does not count toward the student's grade, but is used to measure whether they are making progress toward meeting the learning target. Learning checks will cover 2-4 learning targets and occur weekly or twice a week.
- A Unit Test - assesses all learning targets in the given unit of study. Tests will be broken down by learning target, and students will receive an individual score for each learning target, which combined essentially makes up their test score. Each test will also have a retention section, which includes learning targets from previous units - so it is important to stay fresh on old material. If a student does poorly on any of the any learning targets, they have the opportunity to retake those learning targets. In order for a student to retake a learning target, they must have completed ALL assignments from that unit and the study guide. Missing or incomplete assignments make students ineligible to do retakes. Retakes must be completed before the next unit test!!

Assignments given to students are divided into 3 major categories:

- Category 1 - Daily Assignments (15% of course grade) - includes participation grades, homework, notebook grades, and daily activities.
- Category 2 - Major Assessments (75% of course grade) - includes tests, extended labs, projects, writing assignments, and presentations.
- Category 3 - Final Exam (10% of course grade) - The fall final exam will be administered by Mrs. Brown and will be a cumulative assessment of each learning target from the first semester. In the spring semester, the final exam is the End of Course exam, a cumulative state exam covering the entire course.

Late Work Policy
In this class, the late work policy is “three strikes and you’re out!” The first three assignments that are turned in late will still receive full credit. When a student turns in their 4th late assignment, he/she will only receive 50% of the total possible points. ALL late work (whether the 1st late assignment, or the 10th) must be turned in during the same instructional unit. At the end of a given unit, late assignments from that unit will no longer be accepted. After your third late assignment, your parents will be notified.

Make-Up Work
In accordance with school policy, students who are absent will have the number of days they were absent, plus one additional day to complete their make-up work. (Ex: if you miss Monday, you have Tuesday and Wednesday to get caught up, and your work is due on Thursday). If make-up work is not completed in the allotted time frame, it will be treated as a late assignment. Make-up work can be found in the make-up folder in the front of the classroom. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain their makeup work should they miss school.

Extra Credit
Extra credit will be available from time to time, but can only be completed by students who have turned in ALL other work. Any missing work makes you ineligible to complete extra credit assignments. An extra credit opportunity that is available throughout the year is completing a “Science in the News” article. For this assignment, students research a scientific article and give a short presentation to the class. Each presentation counts as a bonus learning target grade and is worth 4 points contingent on the quality of their presentation. Students may present 3 science in the news articles per semester.