

Welcome to Biology!



Contact Information

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Course Information

Welcome to Biology! The entire course syllabus is posted on Weebly: <http://kenwoodfreshmenbio.weebly.com>. This is our course website, and here students can access worksheets and other important information which is especially useful during an absence. **Please review the syllabus** as it contains more in depth grade and content information.

Materials

Each student will be required to have a three ring binder (designated for Biology only), binder dividers, loose leaf paper, a pencil, and a red pen each day they enter the classroom. Each student will be assigned a biology textbook at the beginning of the year. Students should use this book as a resource when at home as we will also have a class set of books for students to reference. Textbooks must be returned by the end of the school year, otherwise a \$130 fee will be assessed. Please do not lose your textbook!

Learning Platforms

Weebly will be used as a resource for students when out of the classroom. This year, we will be implementing Schoology so that students can submit larger assignments and take quizzes electronically. More information, such as access codes, will be provided to students at a later date.

Academic Policies/Procedures

Bellringers and Summaries

All bellringers and summaries must be written in **complete sentences**. Each bellringer and each summary is worth 2 points, for a total of 4 points each day. If a student is absent or tardy to class they are still responsible for that day's bellringer and summary. They can ask a peer for information, or they can come see me before school or during Wednesday advisory. The powerpoints with the bellringers and summaries can be found on Weebly too, so making these up can be done at home. Do not write absent on the paper. Each Friday, the bellringer/summary sheet from that week is due at the end of class.

Extra Credit

The **only** extra credit given in this course is in the form of extra credit stamps. Students can earn an extra credit stamp by quietly working on their bellringer at the start of class, completing a hand out on time that is not collected for a homework grade, or by going above and beyond in the classroom to help other students. At the end of the quarter, students will count up the total number of stamps on all that quarter's bellringer sheets, staple all sheets together, write total number of stamps on the front, and turn in before grades are due. That means students must hold onto all of their bellringer sheets each quarter in their binder. **Do not throw them away**. Ms. Hays is not responsible for lost stamps. It is possible to receive a **4% increase** on a student's total average grade meaning if they have 86% they would have a 90% at the end of the quarter if they have the maximum number of stamps.

Binders and Papers

Every student must have a binder with only biology materials. The binder must be divided into three sections: first is the reference section, second is the numbered unit page section, and third is the bellringer/summary and weekly reading section. Every new unit, students will receive a colorful paper with a calendar on it. On this paper students must **write down that days homework**. Even if they have none they still must write "none". Students will turn this in at the end of the unit for a grade. I will check the calendar weekly, so if calendars are left blank they will not receive credit for blank dates.

On **Wednesday** students will receive a weekly reading. The students must annotate by boxing key terms, underlining main ideas, and writing a brief summary of each paragraph. The weekly reading is due on Friday. All papers are collected on Friday at the end of class, unless otherwise instructed, and should be kept in their binder with a page number. Typically every Friday students will turn in a bellringer/summary sheet, weekly reading, and one unit worksheet from the week of my choosing. Students only have **one week** from the day a paper was collected to turn it in late. No papers will be accepted after the one week. Almost every assignment is worth **16 points**. The day it is due

students will receive a stamp that counts as 4 points. Then when we go over it in class and students make corrections in a different writing utensil, which is worth another 4 points. When they turn it in on Friday they will receive another 4 points for turning it in on time and an additional 4 points if the assignment is complete. An **answer key** is always projected in front of the class so even if a student does not do the work they can easily complete it in class when we are going over it. No student should have less than 12 out of 16 on most assignments.

If a student is **absent** it is up to them to make up the work they missed. Any missed papers can be found in a hanging folder near the classroom entrance, or check the Weebly website. Students must come see me before school or during advisory to talk about a missed class. It should **not** be done during class time. I will not hunt them down to provide work they missed because they were absent.

Exams

Students are allowed to retake the content portion of the exam, and I will accept the higher grade. It is a two step meeting process: once to go over the test and make corrections and a second time to retake the test. Students only have one week from when the grade was given to complete a retake. The biology semester 1 and 2 finals are worth 10% of their grade and is in its own category on Gradebook. The final cannot be retaken.

Classroom Rules/Expectations

The most important rule in our classroom is **respect**. This includes being respectful of all other individuals in the classroom and of the classroom environment. Students must uphold the Kenwood Honor Code at all times, meaning they should display integrity, humility, and honesty. Students must raise their hand to be called upon, keep our classroom clean, and push in their stools when they leave to keep the walkways clear. There is absolutely no writing on the tables. Items must not be thrown around the classroom. Cell phones must be put away during class unless instructed otherwise. If a cell phone is out, it will be taken until the end of class. No eating will be allowed in the classroom in order to uphold a clean learning environment. Students may of course have water.

When the bell rings the door is **closed and locked**. Students in the class should be in their seats starting on their bellringer. After the door is closed, students must get a tardy before entering the classroom. Students may not get up out of their seats during full class instruction. If students need to throw something away or get tissue they must wait until I am not talking to the class as whole.

If a student needs to use the washroom, Kenwood policy is that no student is allowed out during the first and last ten minutes of class. If it is between those times a student may ask only when the class is working independently. Do not raise your hand while I am talking or going over something to leave the classroom.

On lab or activity days students must be cautious. There is a zero tolerance policy towards horseplay on these days. Students need to follow directions and be extremely careful when handling science materials. Do not use the materials for anything other than what you are instructed. If a student is caught doing things with the materials that they should not be doing, they will be sent out of the room, receive a zero for the activity, and will not be allowed to do any more labs or activities until a parent has met with me! Safety is our main concern.

Please note that repeated violations of these policies will result in a referral to Dean Gill.

All students must keep up with their work and cannot wait until the last minute to care about passing! These grades will follow students throughout their high school career. In order to keep students aware of their Biology grade, about every 2 – 3 weeks students will receive little sheet of paper that shows them their grade and they will have to graph their grade in biology. This makes students accountable for their grade. Please check gradebook often!

Course Policies Acknowledgement

Attached is a form that must be signed by both the student and parent/guardian. Please sign, detach, and have the slip returned to me. Grades will not be entered until the form is signed as it acknowledges we are all aware of the policies. I am truly excited to work alongside each and every student this year and will be available for students if any additional help is needed throughout the duration of this course. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Thank you,

