



Course Syllabus: CP BIOLOGY

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Course Description: This course meets UC/CSU and district graduation requirements for a laboratory science. It provides students, through their experiences in reading, writing, listening, experimentation and following tasks and procedures related to the scientific method. This class will be a combination of lab and lecture experiences that reinforce the California Science Standards. CP Biology is designed to prepare students for continuation in Chemistry the following year. The course is taught in a rigorous format and at an accelerated pace. It is imperative that students are prepared each day and ask questions when they do not understand.

Supplies:

Students must have an organized binder in which to keep their work for this class. I recommend getting only one 3-4 inch binder to keep work for all of their classes. Use one set of dividers to separate the classes, and other sets to divide the work for each class within that portion of the binder. Each tab should be labeled with the code in parentheses. This course will require the following sections:

- Assignment Log (A-LOG)
- Classwork (CW)
- Notes (NTS)
- Quizzes and Tests (QT)

Materials:

- Ample supply of 3-holed, loose-leaf paper
- Composition Book
- 3-holed, PeeChee Type folder to hold class-specific work
- Colored pencils (for home)
- Metric Ruler (for home)-transparent is best!
- Blue or Black Pen Only
- A supply of pencils (or lead if mechanical)
- Pack of 3x5 cards
- **Suggested:** Flash Drive (1-gig OK) to save digital work & transport to/from school.

Grading: The common grade scale for 9th grade CP Biology is as follows:

40% Exams – Exams include chapter, mid-term and unit exams.

30% Classwork – Includes bio-logs, labs, mini-labs, activities, lecture notes, and worksheets.

15% Homework – These items will be on your assignment log.

5% Quizzes – You can expect 1-2 short quizzes a week.

10% Final Exam – The final exam for each course is a district wide, standardized multiple-choice test, and may include additional components that are individual to each teacher.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is integral to RAM PRIDE. The work you turn in must be your own, and any references to the work of others must be properly cited, otherwise you are committing theft – the theft of ideas. This is, in the adult world, punishable by law through fines, loss of work, loss of college degrees, or even imprisonment. As described in the MMHS Discipline Matrix, academic dishonesty will result in loss of credit for your work, Saturday School, Suspension, or possibly your removal from the course. Please be honest in your work.

Required Coursework/Homework: Students in this course will have consistent homework and class work that needs to be completed on time. Work will be graded and returned in a timely manner. This work may include writing assignments, journals, work from the literature book, reading, worksheets, blogs, research or projects. Late work is highly discouraged but will be worth 40% of the original value. (ex. 100 pt assignment. Late = 40/100 (F)).

Attendance/Promptness: As described in the student handbook, RAM Tracks, students are expected to be in school, on time each day. Inconsistent attendance will significantly impact your ability to be successful in this class in many ways.

Bio-Logs: Students will participate in a daily bio log entry at the beginning of class that will consist of questions, definitions or problems that relate to our current or past class session. Students who are tardy to class will not be allowed to make up the Warm-Up for that day, even if their tardy was excused.

Late/Make up work/tests: Late work will be accepted for one week after the date the assignment was due, and will be marked down to 40% of its original value. After that one week, the work will not be accepted at all.

Students who are absent have several options to keep them from getting behind in their work. Homework and class agendas will be posted in class in the Agenda Binder, so that they will be able to find out what they missed upon returning to class. The teacher may also be contacted via phone or E-mail during the absence to find out what is being missed. Another option would be to call a classmate from your team to get the necessary information.

Tests may be made up promptly by appointment with the teacher. An alternative assessment may be given in some instances where test security is an issue, or when it is not possible to duplicate the exact test that was given in class.

Hall Passes: Students may use their Student ID to obtain a pass from the teacher to use the restroom, etc. They must ask at an appropriate time, avoid disrupting the class on their departure and return, and they must return promptly. Bathroom visits and duration will be monitored to ensure that they are not a disruption to the class or the student's individual learning experience.

Citizenship: standard school wide (RAM PRIDE – **Purpose, Responsibility, Integrity, Duty, Excellence**)

As explained on pages 9 and 10 of RAM Tracks, students will be expected at all times to:

- Model positive behavior and contribute to the well-being of the school community.
- Engage in higher-level thinking and contribute to a clean school environment.
- Act with personal integrity and follow school behavioral expectations.
- Contribute to a clean and orderly school environment and treat others with respect.
- Uphold a culture of safety and respect for others and contribute to a positive school culture.
- Think about character before acting out and make the right choices for your future.
- Use every opportunity to make the right choices and positively influence others.
- Treat others with respect and compassion and do everything possible to resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Model positive behavior and act with personal integrity.
- Take personal responsibility for academic performance and act with integrity.
- Engage in classroom activities and utilize effective work habits.
- Embrace the culture of continuing education and follow school behavioral expectations.
- Display a motivation for learning and utilize effective work habits.
- Contribute to a positive school culture and model positive behavior.

CLASSROOM RULES (8 Steps to Successful Citizenship): *Students Will...*

1. Bring required materials to class.
2. Respect the teacher, peers and classroom equipment.
3. Be seated at desk when the bell sounds and remain seated unless given permission to move.
4. Demonstrate "on-task" behavior.
5. Listen (without talking) when instruction is taking place.
6. Not eat, drink or chew gum in the classroom. (exception—Water)
7. Not groom during class (i.e. brush hair, apply make-up or perfume, braid hair, etc).
8. Practice Safe Laboratory Procedures.

General Expectations and Rules with Consequences: All students are expected to adhere to the MMHS Behavioral Matrix in the student handbook – RAM Tracks. All school and district rules will be upheld in this class at all times. This means specifically that there will be no food or drinks in class, other than water, no gum, no hats worn in class, no electronic devices visible or audible in class, no harassment of any sort, no writing in the textbooks, no plagiarism, no breaking of dress code, no profanity or lewd language, and that all students will constantly demonstrate respect for each other, the teacher, and the school. Infractions of school rules and/or disrespect to others in the class will result in the following consequences:

1st offense – verbal warning

2nd offense – Meeting with teacher during student's free time for conference, written plan/apology, other remedy...

3rd offense – Parent contact

4th offense – administrative referral

Other behavioral management practices may be employed as needed at the teacher's discretion.

Family Contact: To inform families of what is going on in this class, daily updates will be made to the webpage, including agenda, homework, handouts, assignments, reminders, etc. Any family E-mail addresses obtained are also used to create distribution lists, which are used to send common information about the class, assignments, and upcoming exams to parents. Families will be contacted regarding areas of concern, and, whenever possible, areas of praise. Families are encouraged to contact me via phone or E-mail any time that they have questions or concerns. E-mail is the most effective form of communication. Teachers are also available to meet with families, should the need arise, by appointment.

