**Biology Course Syllabus**

Skyline Prep High School

Ms. Murphy – Room 128

**Course Description:**  Students will investigate biological systems at the molecular, cellular, and macrobiological level.  Hands-on laboratory exercises incorporating cellular biology, genetics, DNA technology, evolution, and ecology will be provided to assist students in their understanding of biological themes.  Projects and reading assignments may be requires with each unit of instruction.

**Contact Information**: Call 602-437-3331 ext. 1428 or e-mail any time (preferred): mmurphy@skylineschools.com

**Teacher Website**: <http://www.msmurphysscienceclass.weebly.com/>

PowerPoints, notes, assignments, and resources will be available on this website.

**Grading Procedures**: My grading procedures are based on a point-scale system

1. Assignments: 15-20 pts depending on the assignment
2. Labs: 50 pts
3. Exams: 100 pts
4. Participation: 8 pts per week

Assignments: (15-20 pts) will be taken on a regular basis. This includes in-class work as well as homework. Assignments will usually be problems or questions pertaining to material we are covering. **Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated.**

Labs**:** (50 pts) will include formal and informal lab reports as well as student notes. Formal and informal lab reports will be prepared at the conclusion of most lab experiences. You will be assigned to a lab group. Cooperation and participation are critical to a lab group’s success. Each member of the group will turn in his/her own work. Your answers to lab questions should **NEVER** duplicate those of other group members (use your own words). Remember that you alone are ultimately responsible for your grade in lab. Safety procedures will be strictly enforced. Some of the equipment we will be using is quite valuable and must be treated accordingly. Irresponsible behavior will result in a zero on the lab.

Exams: (100 pts) will include scheduled content exams, lab practicals and quizzes. You will be given at least three days notice for these regular exams. I also reserve the right to administer a pop quiz at any time to determine the current mastery level of the class.

Participation: (8pts) will include bell works and exit tickets.

Students: Your parents will be able to check your grades online at any time. My grading will be kept up to date. I grade all assignments on Fridays of each week. It is your responsibility to turn in your assignments.

**Class Materials:**

* 2” size 3 ring binder with pockets
* Composition Notebook
* Calculator
* Writing utensils (pencils and pens)

You **MUST** bring your composition notebook to class each day. Your notebook will be your study guide and reference for the remainder of the course. This notebook must be dedicated solely to this class. It should contain class notes (everything I write on the board or you see in power points you write in notes).

**Assignment Policy and Procedures**: All assignments are to be turned in during the first five minutes of class, unless you are tardy. All assignments should be in pencil if possible. Illegible assignments may not be graded. I will not accept messy work. All assignments will need to be identified by your name (first and last), hour and date. Assignments missing the full heading may be subject to a 10% deduction of grade. Students have four schools days to claim “NO NAME” papers. At the end of the five days, the assignment will be through in the trash and the student will have to redo the work for a late grade.

**Late Work Policy**: Students are expected to turn in their work on time. Late work will be deducted 30% of the maximum value and then graded. Late work will include all assignments/labs that are not turned in by the end of the day that it is due. Please read your student handbook concerning make up work, school absences, medical absences and family emergencies. Projects that are assigned at least a week in advance will not be accepted late. Projects must be turned in by the due date to receive credit.

**Make-up Work Policy**:

If you know you are going to be gone you will need to get your work **before** your absence. This includes school events. If you know you have a deadline for an assignment the day you will be gone for a school activity, the assignment is still due that day. For absences in which you did not expect to be gone, you will need to re quest all make up work on the day you return. Work due to excused absences must be made within two (2) school days for the first day of absence and one (1) day for each subsequent day. Missed labs or tests will require you to come in after/before school or on Fridays. As stated above, exams are announced several days in advance. If you miss class the day before an exam and return on the exam day, YOU WILL TAKE THE EXAM ON THAT DAY UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. If you have an exam on the day of a school activity you will need to schedule a time to take the exam **before** you leave on the activity. Students who do not turn in assignments due on days of school activities (like dance, sports, art, etc…) will be graded as late. You are responsible for turning your work in on time.

**Extra Credit**: will be given at the teacher’s discretion and will not be given individually to any one student. Varied opportunities for extra credit will be given throughout the year for different amounts of points.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**: students are expected to do their own work. Students who cheat on any work in class will be referred to the office, given a zero on the assignment and parents will be notified. When turning in labs, students can work together to perform the experiment and collect day in class, but are expected to put the entire laboratory report in their own words.

**Student Expectations**: Students are expected to be on time to class every day. Students are expected to bring all materials to class each day. Students will treat each other and me with respect at all times.

**Tutoring**: I can be available before or after school or Fridays for tutoring. Please make arrangements in advance. It is recommended that is a student has missing assignments or a grade lower than a 69% they attend tutoring.

**Return to Ms. Murphy**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read this syllabus carefully and understand what is expected of me by Ms. Murphy. It is my intention to do my best to follow these rules and policies in order that Ms. Murphy’s class may run efficiently and learning may occur.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the parent/guardian of the above student, have read and understand the policies of this syllabus and will do my part in aiding Ms. Murphy in the education of my child.

**X**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Special Comments or Concerns (anything your student might not want to discuss with me in person or anything that may help me understand your child better):