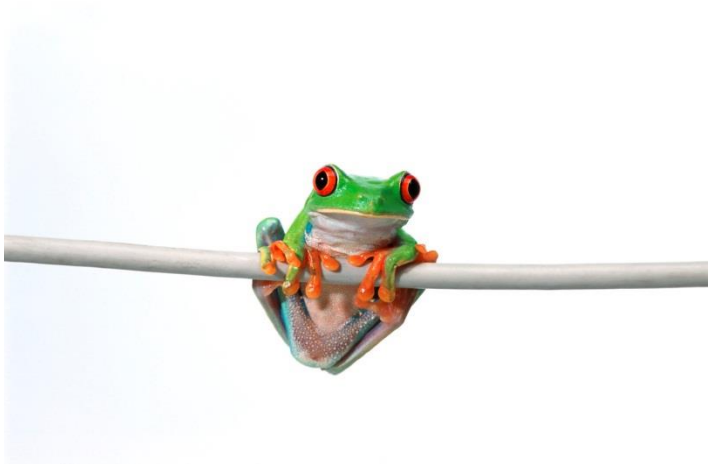
PreAP Biology Syllabus

2013-2014



Course Information: This course is designed for students who show an **advanced aptitude** toward science. Areas of study will include the essential components and objectives of those in on-level Biology with greater depth and at a more accelerated rate. A greater emphasis will be placed on lab and the ability to evaluate, outline, organize, and report scientific information. Laboratory procedures, observation, measurement, classification, prediction, and reporting skills will be stressed. Therefore, strong math skills are important. The student should be proficient in reading and projects are required.

Teacher Information:

Courtney Fox, Room H-10
PreAP Biology (lead teacher)
JV Cheer
5th Conference (10:50 – 11:35)
courtneyfox@misdmail.org
Class website: mrsfoxbiology.weebly.com
Cheer Instagram: @mhsjvcheer

Felecia Ford, Room H-12
PreAP Biology
AP Biology
3rd Conference (9:05 – 9:50)
feleciaford@misdmail.org
Class website: mrsfordbiology.weebly.com

Laura Simpson, Room W-12
PreAP Biology
Regular Biology
4th Conference (9:55 – 10:45)
laurasimpson@misdmail.org

Text and Supplemental Tools: Students will be using ***Modern Biology*** (Holt) in the classroom. There will be no book assigned outside of class, however, students will be issued a username and password to use the online version of this book from home. To access this site, students should visit http://my.hrw.com and use the username/password that they were assigned in class. Students may also visit http://go.hrw.com and navigate to the Modern Biology site to access other valuable tools from home. If there are any special circumstances that would prevent your student from accessing these sites please feel free to let me know and I will work with you to make sure your student has the tools that they will need for success. **Each teacher will also be using either itunes U and/or a website for quick access to files for notes, assignments, and labs with their iPads or**

for the general schedule of what is going on in class for the current unit. Each teacher will be getting that information to her students during the first week of school.

Materials: Each student is required to have the following with them in class each day:

- iPad
- composition or spiral notebook (per teacher preference)
- Pencil
- pen
- Highlighter(s)

In addition to the above, the following are not required but ***greatly*** appreciated and always needed:

- box of Kleenex
- Markers and/or colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Colored copy paper/cardstock
- Hand sanitizer/soap

COURSE POLICIES

Homework: Homework will be ***due at the beginning of each class period*** on the given due date (due dates will vary). Homework will not be accepted past that time. Any student who is absent on the day that homework is due will be held responsible for that homework based on the attendance policy (see below).

Attendance: Students will be expected to follow the policies on **pages 10-13** of the Student Handbook. **Please note that missing 10 minutes or more of any class period, at any time during that class period, is considered an absence.** A tardy is considered any time a student is not in the classroom by the bell. Tardies are recorded in attendance and dealt with through each student's associate principal.

Class Participation: *Active* participation is required from each student. Active participation is defined in this class as working each and every day to involve oneself in class discussions, analyze data collected during labs and lab activities, draw conclusions based on evidence gathered in labs and lab activities, reason and explain conclusions and apply knowledge and skills in course assessments. This participation will be reflected in your student's success in the course as measured by assessment grades, lab grades and daily grades.

Missed Exams or Assignments: Students will be expected to follow the policies on **page 45** of the Student Handbook for making up assignments missed due to an absence. If a student is absent due to a **school related activity** it is my expectation that the student will make every effort to gather work before being absent. Otherwise, the student will follow the policies for making up the assignment. Assignments not completed within the given time will result in a zero. Missed exams will require

student attendance at a makeup exam before school or after school as designated by the teacher. Please make every effort not to miss class on exam days.

Retake policy: Test re-takes are provided so that each student has an equal opportunity to be successful. Each student is offered a re-take on any 50% category exam ONLY (tests and projects). In order to qualify, the student must have earned below a 70 AND will have to attend a tutoring/re-teaching session that the teacher will schedule before the re-take. Re-takes are scheduled at the teacher's discretion (generally within a week of the test date). Re-takes are issued as new tests – and not a re-issue of the test that was taken. The score on the re-take will replace the original score, up to a 70. IF the student chooses to keep the original score, that is an option as well. All re-takes MUST be taken on the assigned day (again, at the teacher's discretion). **No make-up re-takes** will be given. Please plan accordingly**. Also if you ask about when the re-take will be BEFORE even taking the original test, you will lose your opportunity for the retake test- you need to prepare for the first test, don't rely on the retake.**

Lab Safety: Each student is required to complete and have signed by a parent/guardian the district's Lab Safety Contract. Students will NOT be allowed to participate in labs until this has been returned to the teacher. Please make every effort to get this returned during the first week of school. In addition to the safety contract, every student must pass, with 100% proficiency, a lab safety exam. Expect to be given this exam during the first week of school. Any student who does NOT pass will be required to re-take the exam until 100% proficiency is reached. No labs will be allowed until both criteria have been met.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: cheating, copying of work, sharing of answers, plagiarism and work turned in that was not done by the student. Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense and will result in a ZERO on the assignment. No re-takes will be allowed for a student who receives a zero due to academic dishonesty.

Grading:

Tests/Projects:	50% of 6 week grade
Labs/Quizzes:	30% of 6 week grade
Daily/Homework:	20% of 6 week grade

There will be a required minimum of 6 grades per 6 weeks entered into the gradebook to be averaged as the students final 6-week grade. 2 of the 6 grades will be 50% grades (test/projects).

****After 18 weeks, students will be given semester exams. This exam will count 20% of the final grade for that semester. The first six weeks will count 26.6%, as will the second and third six week grades when calculating the semester average.

Each semester will be assigned ½ credit upon successful completion which requires a minimum earned 70%.

Students in PreAP Biology will be assigned a weighted factor of an additional 10 points in the grade point average if the final grade in the class is 70% or above.

End of Course Exams:

Mansfield ISD will comply with state law and give the End of Course (EOC) exam to each student in Biology. Semester grades will be calculated as stated above. The EOC exam will count as 15% of the final course average and will be calculated as follows:

First semester grade:	42.5%
Second semester grade:	42.5%
EOC Exam:	15%

Available Support Services: Please feel free to visit http://www.mansfieldisd.org/mhs/library/start.html for research tools, journals, etc. with your student for enrichment or resource purposes. It is important that your student learn the passwords to be used in the sites and visit the library often for study time and tools.

Course Basic Outline

First Six Weeks:
(Aug 26-Oct 4)

Lab Safety

Ecology, Biomes, Cycles

Biochemistry

Second Six Weeks:
(Oct 7- Nov 15)

Cellular Structure/Function

Cellular Transport

Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration

Third Six Weeks:
(Nov 18- Jan 17)

Cell Cycle

Meiosis and Sexual Reproduction

DNA, DNA replication, and Protein Synthesis

MIDTERMS- Week of January 13th

Fourth Six Weeks:
(Jan 21- Feb 28)

Mutations

Genetics

Genetic Engineering

Evolution

Fifth Six Weeks:
(Mar 3- Apr 17)

Classification

Plants/ System Interactions

Animals/ System Interactions

Sixth Six Weeks:
(Apr 21- Jun 5)

EOC Review Days

EOC STAAR TEST

Review/Introduce Main Chemistry Concepts