# Biology Syllabus 2022-2023

Mr. Christopher Fitzgerald

Biology Teacher

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**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 2:45-3:15

*Open door policy:* Please come see me with any questions or concerns during office

hours or between classes. I will help in any way that I can.

**Tutoring Schedule:** I am available for tutoring sessions by appointment. Please see me if you need to arrange a session. You also have **FEV Tutor available to you free of charge**!

**Biology Course Description:** **Biology students will develop an understanding of the cellular structure and the role these structures play in living cells. Students will develop a fundamental understanding of the role of bio-macromolecules, their structure and function as related to life processes. They will analyze how genetic information is passed to their offspring and how these mechanisms lead to variability and hence diversity of species. They will use cladograms and phylogenetic trees to determine relationships among major groups of organisms. Biology students are able to recognize the central role the theory of evolution plays in explaining species diversity through processes of adaptation. (Georgia DOE).**

**Classroom Expectations:** I expect you to give me 100% effort! I am here to help you, so be sure to ask questions during class. No question is too easy or hard: Let’s work together!

*Respect:* I expect everyone to be respectful. Respect should be given by not interrupting without raising your hand, addressing everyone by name, and not disrupting class with your own personal actions.

*Cell Phone Use Policy*: Students are not permitted to use cell phones during my class, except when explicitly asked to. Students who fail to comply will be asked for their phone, which can be found at the front office at the end of the day. Failure to surrender the phone will result in a referral.

*Academic Dishonesty:* Don’t plagiarize. Don’t copy student answers. Don’t cheat.

*Be Responsible*: Every student must keep track of their assignments and due dates.

**COVID-19 Guidelines**

Per recommendations from the CDC, the following are guidelines for our class:

* Desks will be spaced to allow for three-foot distancing
* Hand sanitizer will be provided at the front of the room
* Avoid touching your face

**Grading Policy**

*Scale:* 90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 75-79 (C), 70-74 (D), 69 and below (F)

*Weight of Grade:* Major Assignments (Tests, Projects, Labs) (**40%**)

Minor Assignments (Classwork, Quizzes, Warm-Ups) (**60%**)

*Total: (****100%*** *of your intentional excellence!)*

*Late Work/Make-Up Work Policy*: Students will have until the end of each semester to turn in any assignments that were missed. Assignments will be closed at that point.

*Test Retake Policy*: Students may retake a test if they are unhappy with their grade. To qualify, a student must create a “Plan to Relearn,” laying out what they plan to do in order to better prepare for their retake. If you score higher on the retake, scores on the unit’s quizzes and tests will be replaced with that score.

*Minimum Grade Policy*: A student that does not submit an assignment will have that assignment count as missing (which is calculated as a zero). Any *submitted* assignment will have a minimum grade of 60%, which is still failing, but gives the student a fighting chance at maintaining or improving their grade.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will count for 20% of your final grade. The exam will contain multiple choice and short answer questions about every unit we cover during the semester.

**Required Materials**: -Pencils and Pens -Composition Notebook

-Lined Notebook Paper (not spiral bound) -Three-Ring Binder

**Lab Safety:**

* Read and follow directions first!
* Know the location of safety equipment
* Dress for the lab
* Don't eat or drink in the laboratory
* Don't taste or sniff chemicals
* Don't play mad scientist in the laboratory
* Dispose of lab waste properly
* Know what to do with lab accidents
* Leave experiments at the Lab
* No horseplay!