**Biological Science**

**Ms. Jonetta Gaddis**

**Course Syllabus 2025-2026**

**Course Description**

This course explores the foundational concepts of biological science, emphasizing the study of life, from the molecular level to ecosystems. Students will engage in hands-on laboratory investigations, scientific reasoning, and collaborative inquiry to deepen their understanding of the biological world. Emphasis is placed on real-world applications and preparing students for post-secondary science coursework.

**Textbook**

**Title: *Inspire Biology*  
Publisher: McGraw Hill Education  
Edition: Georgia Edition (aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence – GSE Biology)**

**Unit/Concept Names**

1. Stability & change in population Over Time

2. Patterns in Living System

3A. Structure and Function Of Molecular Genetics

3B. Structure and Function Of Molecular Genetics

4. Patterns in Heredity & Selection

5. Stability & Change in Ecosystems.

**Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities**

* Microscopy lab investigations
* DNA extraction and genetic modeling
* Biome/Ecosystem posters or digital presentations
* Experimental design and lab reports
* Interactive simulations and group discussions
* Biology review escape rooms and games
* Benchmark and milestone practice assessments

**Course work/Classwork**

Students in Biological Science will engage in a variety of assignments—including classwork, lab reports, collaborative projects, and individual practice—designed to build content knowledge and strengthen scientific skills. These assignments are essential for reinforcing classroom instruction and allowing students to demonstrate mastery of the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Biology.

If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to check Google Classroom or consult the teacher to obtain and complete missed assignments within the allowed time frame.

Students are expected to **submit all work on time**, as this demonstrates pride, personal responsibility, and a strong work ethic—qualities emphasized in the **RCSS Profile of a Graduate**. Timely completion of work promotes better understanding and academic achievement. Late submissions may hinder learning and affect a student’s ability to fully demonstrate mastery of course standards.

Additionally, when assignments are designed to assess **original student thinking**, the use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to generate responses is **not permitted**. While AI tools may be appropriately used during research or idea development, using AI to **complete assignments on behalf of the student** is considered **Academic Dishonesty** and will be addressed in accordance with the RCBOE Code of Conduct.

*See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices for more details.*

**Late Work (Grading Policy- See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices)**

Students may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). ***Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion.***

**Make-Up Work (Grading Policy)**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from

school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class.

Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher.

**Evaluation (Grading Policy)**

* Minor Grades (Quizzes, Class work, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, etc.)
* Major Grades (Unit & Chapter Test, Projects, Tasks)

| **Category** | **Weight** |
| --- | --- |
| Assessments | 40% |
| Labs & Projects | 30% |
| Classwork/Homework | 20% |
| Participation | 10% |

**Relearn and Reassess Plan**

For any major assessments, students will have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students will be given a minimum of **ONE** opportunity to be reassessed. Only students scoring below 70 on a major assessment can complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

Reassessments may be different from the original.

The reassessment score will replace the original score (the scores will not be averaged).

Reassessments should be completed **within 7 school days** of receiving the original grade. Teachers should have discretion to extend the timeline to address extenuating circumstances.

*See teacher class page for Relearn/Reassess*

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

The overarching expectation in this class is to represent WAR (W, Accountable, Respectful)

Below are the expectations for how to W.A.R. in class!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wholehearted** | * **Come prepared and engaged** * **Take initiative in your learning** * ***Be present, prepared, and fully engaged.*** |
| **Accountable** | * Submit work on time * Own your actions and learning choices * Take ownership of your learning and behavior. |
| **Respectful** | * Listen actively to peers and teacher * Respect materials, space, and differences in opinion * Treat classmates, the teacher, and materials responsibly. |

**Course Materials**

Students are expected to bring the following to class **every day**:

* 3” 3-ring Binder
* 1½–2-inch binder or organized section in a larger binder for Biological Science
* College-ruled notebook or composition book (for interactive notes/labs)
* Blue or black pens, pencils, and highlighters
* Chromebook or laptop fully charged

**My contact information:**

Email: gaddijo@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Remind messages: text the message @6e2fcaa to the #81010. The link is also on my personal web page on the Westside High School site.

**Resources:**

**Primary Textbook & Curriculum Platform**

* **Textbook: *Inspire Biology*, McGraw Hill Education (Georgia Edition)**
* **Access: Provided in print and digital formats**
* **Digital Portal: Students will receive login credentials to access online content, interactive assignments, videos, and assessments through McGraw Hill ConnectED.**

**Student Contract:** I understand that all work should be completed on time. I understand that my teacher may deduct five points per day and communicate this in my Infinite Campus gradebook. I also understand that work turned in after the learning has occurred may not be graded (no more than 5 school days from the due date). I understand that using Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where I am asked to produce original work will be considered Academic Dishonesty.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contract:** I understand that my child is expected to complete assignments on time. I will

remain in communication with my child’s teacher and monitor missing and late work as noted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If my child continues to submit work late, I understand that a parent-teacher conference will be needed to co-develop a plan of action. I understand that my child should not use Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where students are asked to produce original work.

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_