



Welcome to Biology!

Ms. Claire Lant, Room 235

Put Students First • Seek Growth • Be Open to Change • Do Great Work Together • Value Differences



Frank W. Cox High School Course Expectations: Biology



Required Materials

You need these **EVERYDAY...**

- 3 ring binder
 - * At least 2 inches. However, I strongly suggest students have one **BIG** binder for ALL classes. That way, you are never without the right binder.
- Clip Board (Helps w/ organization in a few ways, I'll explain.)
- Planner (or must have a designated area in front of your binder for recording assignments, etc.)
- #2 Pencil with/ & Eraser
 - * Except for lesson & reading notes, only pens with blue or black ink may be used for assignments
- Blue or Black Ink Pen
- Chromebook (charged & ready for use)
- Earbuds or Headphones
(Chromebook Compatible - with USB or Auxiliary cable)
- Colored pencils (at least a small pack)
- White Loose leaf, Lined Paper (8½ x 11)
- A Positive, Can-do attitude! 😊



Teacher Contact Information

- My Email: Claire.Lant@vbschools.com
- Link to my email can be found on my website: www.thebionut.weebly.com
 - Schoology is still the "go-to" for students and links to my website will be provided there. However, unlike Schoology, Parents can access my website without a student username and password.
- Cox High School: 757-648-5250

B.Y.O.D



From VBCPS:

The use of Electronic Devices will remain solely at the discretion of the teacher.

From Ms. Lant:

Studies show, unauthorized/off-task device & cell phone use leads to lower grades! Unless otherwise instructed, the use of electronic devices and cell phones will NOT be permitted.

Student Behavior Expectations

[VBCPS Code of Student Conduct](#)

A digital copy of this handout, including the links above, can be accessed on the "Parent Page" of my website.

Student Attendance Expectations

[VBCPS Attendance Policy](#)

Daily Classroom Procedures & Daily Student Conduct

Be respectful and courteous.

During lessons, labs, & other activities, listen attentively, participate responsibly.

Be pro-active!

Be prepared and on time

& in your seat by the Tardy Bell.

*Any quiz, etc. missed because of an unexcused tardy may have points deducted.

Safety Procedures must be followed at all times.

In order to participate in labs & activities students are required to turn-in the Safety Contract after they have carefully read & completed the Safety Contract & given it to a parent/guardian to review and sign.

Permission must be obtained to leave the classroom

Students must follow the school pass procedure discussed in class.

Upon entering the room students are to prepare for the start of class

- ✓ Immediately turn-in any assignments due (including make-up work).
- ✓ Copy any posted HW assignments &/or announcements from the board.
- ✓ Check the posted Agenda & get ready for the start of class (i.e. get out Notebook, sharpen pencils, etc.)
- * **The Agenda & Homework assigned for each day is displayed the entire class.***
- ✓ Unless otherwise stated, "Warm-up Activities should be started right after the Tardy Bell rings.

NO APPLYING of perfume or scented lotions in the classroom

Be respectful of others with allergies & asthma ... which includes your teacher!



**BE READY!
DON'T
WASTE TIME**




Biology Course Description

Biology is the study of life—the basic characteristics and functions of living organisms and their place in our environment. Laboratory and field investigations are the primary means for developing problem-solving skills and for developing knowledge and understanding of biological concepts. Topics include the history of biology; the cell and cell processes; genetics and heredity; cycles in nature; photosynthesis and respiration; ecology; plants, animals and microorganisms; continuity of life; and the interaction of science technology, and society. Students will take the Standards of Learning test for Biology.

Course Outline

Intro to Biology &
Scientific Investigation
Biochemistry
Cell Biology
Genetics
Evolution
The Web of Life
Ecology

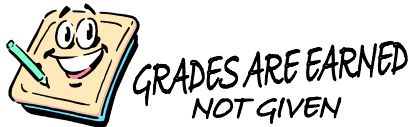



** Each section will build on the previous information; therefore, students cannot afford to get behind.*

Course Objectives

- To gain an understand and appreciation of the principles of biology and how they are applied in structured experiments as well as our daily lives
- To conduct scientific experiments and analyze results
- To develop reasoning and problem-solving skills
- To relate science to real life applications incorporating technology and career exploration
- To attempt and pass the state mandated end of the course SOL test


Class Grading for Assignments & Assessments



- 10% - Homework
- 40% - Classwork, Video Notes, Labs, & other Activities
- 50% - Quizzes, Tests, & Projects

The average of each category will be determined by Total Points.

Grading Scale

Want it? Earn it!	93 - 100	A
	90 - 92	A-
	87 - 89	B+
	83 - 86	B
	80 - 82	B-
	77 - 79	C+
	73 - 76	C
BELIEVE IT, DO IT!	70 - 72	C-
	67 - 69	D+
	64 - 66	D
	Below 64	E



Fair & Equitable Grading Practices

[\(Click here for VBCPS School based Evaluation & Grading Procedures\)](#)

A digital copy of this handout, including the links above, can be accessed on the "Parent Page" of my website.

Homework

Responsibility • Time management • Perseverance • Self-esteem

Homework does not just help you to review and learn material. The benefits of homework include developing good habits in responsibility, time management, and perseverance, which builds your self-esteem.

<http://memphisparent.com/education/why-homework-is-actually-good-for-kids/>

- Homework will be assigned & checked regularly and is to be neatly placed in the in-box on the front desk upon entering the classroom. HW is always due WHEN THE BELL RINGS.
- Homework and projects are assigned for practice and extension purposes.
- All Homework will count 10% of a student's cumulative grade.
- Homework will be graded to assess student understanding and comprehension. Points will be assigned based mainly on evidence of careful and independent completion (*i.e. making an honest attempt & doing your own work*). Points will be deducted for blanks - If you do not know an answer, **do not** leave it blank. Instead, after doing your best to use the provided resources (*i.e. your notes, a reading assignment, etc.*) take your best educated guess, tell me something you do know that is related to the topic, write a question or comment about where you need help, etc. Persistence is key to learning and the quality of your work reflects your resolve.



Make-up Work

YOU are responsible for obtaining and completing missed work.

1. Check the Daily Agenda online (preferably before your return to class).
 2. Upon your return to class (or before if possible), obtain handouts from the "Make-Up Station" at the front of the classroom. Please note, digital copies of most handouts are linked to the Daily Agendas/Learning Plans, so you may print the handouts at home if you wish. If you do not have a printer but would like to complete the work prior to returning from an absence, you can neatly record the answers on a clean sheet of notebook paper.
- Unless there are extenuating circumstances, any work assigned prior to and due during your absence must be turned in before class starts upon your return. Work missed during your absence must be submitted within 2 class periods when the absence is excused. Please see me upon your return if you miss more than one class period and need additional time. If you have an extended illness, please see me if you want help prioritizing your make-up work for my, some, or all of your classes. I'll be glad to help!
 - Students may make up work for an unexcused absence or unverified absence within one class period.
 - Unless Test, Quiz, &/or Lab make-ups are not already specifically announced in the online Daily Agenda/Learning Plan, see me to schedule a make-up appointment.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit will be used for learning activities and the extra credit will be weighted according to the difficulty of assignment.

Extra Credit opportunities include constructing an educational bulletin board, certain assignments, & classroom jobs (e.g. watering plants & taking care of aquarium).



Methods for obtaining extra credit will be further discussed during class.

Repeated individual &/or class Violations of the Honor Code may result in loss of extra credit opportunities.

Explanation of Zeroes

- All assignments missed may be made-up provided the student has an excused absence.
- Missing assignments will be assigned a zero in the gradebook until they are submitted. Failure to submit work within the specified time will result in a permanent zero. (Also see "Late Work.")

Reassessment

- Homework/ classwork must be completed (no blanks) on the assigned due dates in order to qualify for test corrections and/or retakes.
- No retakes will be permitted for assignments with honor code violations.

Late Work

- Late work will be accepted with a ten percent deduction from the grade for each class period the assignment is late.
- Missing assignments (which will be recorded as zeros in the gradebook) are due by the quiz or test (whichever comes first) for which they serve as resources/practice/etc. If the assignment has already been checked/graded, passed back, &/or discussed, the student must come in during their study block, one lunch, or after school to complete the assignment in order to receive credit.

Parent Contact & Portal Updates

- I regularly provide descriptions/explanations for assignments entered in the gradebook. When in Student/Parent View, click on the assignment to view any comments I may provide about assignments.
- I also often provide individual student comments regarding make-up work that is due, as well as other types of information about which I want to remind students and inform parents. These comments will display to the far right of the assignment in Student/Parent View.



Tutoring & Remediation



Extra Help is ALWAYS Available!

- I am always willing to stay after school if my schedule allows.
 - * Activity buses are available for students who stay after and need a ride home.
 - * Study groups are welcome to use my classroom during one-lunch and afterschool - Please see me first.
- My website (linked provided in Schoology): <http://thebionut.weebly.com>
- Peer Tutoring (must obtain pass from subject teacher).
- The Internet is a wonderful resource for help, practice, and investigating further!
But be sure to use provided resources first!
- My email: Claire.Lant@vbschools.com

Most days I'm at school until at least 4 PM. Students are welcome to stay after for help, to complete HW, group study, to do extra credit, etc. Prior arrangements are suggested but I do my best to accommodate "walk-ins."

Honor Code

Student/Parent Acknowledgement

I assume the responsibility of my own actions, and I promise to uphold the honor code of Cox High School by neither giving nor receiving unauthorized help on any quiz, test, exam, or other academic assignment.



The Honor code will be strictly enforced.

Please complete the Acknowledgement Form and return by: Aday 9/09, Bday 9/10.

**The Safety Contract will be sent home along with the Acknowledgement Form. It must be read, completed, and signed before students can participate in lab activities.*

For additional information, please access the VBCPS High School Handbook by clicking this link:

[VBCPS High School Handbook](#)

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