



Biology

Coach Clay Blackburn
Cblackburn@ems-isd.net

Conference Period: 6th Period; 1:40-2:30 pm

Tutoring Opportunities: Tutoring for Biology is available Monday through Thursday, morning and afternoons, by at least one of the Biology teachers found in rooms G129, G132, G133, and G136. Friday tutorials are by appointment only.

Class Materials:

- Students will need to bring a Composition Notebook for daily activities
- Students will need to bring Pencils/Pens to class every day
- Canvas will occasionally be used for student coursework
- Access to the Biology textbook online through SSO; McGraw-Hill Education

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

Biology is the study of structure, growth, and function of the life systems of organisms. The study will encompass a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; cells, tissues, and organs; nucleic acids and genetics; biological evolution; taxonomy; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; living systems; homeostasis; ecosystems; and plants and the environment. Student investigations emphasize accurate observations, collection of data, data analysis, and the safe manipulation of laboratory apparatus and materials in the field and in the laboratory. Biology students are required to pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) end-of- course (EOC) Biology exam to meet part of the graduation requirements.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Describe biological processes and functions
- Decode scientific text
- Perform laboratory procedures safely
- Collaborate with peers to achieve tasks

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor

- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Semester exams will count 1/7 of the semester grade
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes, six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Students in Biology will be expected to take assessments to check their understanding of the content. Students are encouraged to spend time outside of class studying the content until they feel adequately prepared for their assignments. Most major grades will consist of traditional exams, although major grades could include projects, research essays, and presentations that might require time spent outside of class.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Boswell HS Tardy Policy:

- When a student is tardy, they must visit a tardy kiosk before coming to class
- 1st and 2nd tardy will be given a warning
- 3rd tardy will be given a referral and a pm detention
- 4th and 5th tardy will be given a referral, Saturday school, and ISS
- The tardy policy resets after each 6-week period

For Make-Up Work, in accordance with the EMS ISD Grading and Reporting Handbook:

- Students shall have a time equal to days absent from class plus one day to complete all missed assignments.
- Under extenuating circumstances such as long-term illness or family emergencies, teachers will work with the student to determine the due dates for make-up work missed. Teachers may reduce the length or number of assignments as long as the appropriate TEKS are covered.
- Students returning to class following an absence are responsible for discussing with the teacher what is to be completed and date for such completion, along with securing necessary materials and notes.
- Make-up work, including tests, at teacher discretion may be an alternate version of the original work as long as it is at the same level of cognition and covers the identical learning target(s).
- Make-up tests should be administered before or after school to prevent a student from missing additional class time. At a teacher’s discretion, tests may be made up during the school day.
- Work, including tests, assigned prior to an absence may be due on the first return day.

Classroom Expectations:

Students should be prepared for class activates including bringing all required materials. Students should be respectful of the teacher, peers, and the classroom environment. Students should fully participate in lessons, complete work on-time, and give it their personal best every day.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

- 1st 6-weeks: Characteristics of Life, Prokaryotes vs Eukaryotes, Biomolecules, Enzymes
- 2nd 6-weeks: Homeostasis and Transport, Viruses vs Cells, DNA, Protein Synthesis, Mutations
- 3rd 6-weeks: Cell Cycle and Mitosis, Meiosis, Cell Differentiation, Genetic Crosses and Pedigrees
- 4th 6-weeks: Body System Interactions, Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration, Plants
- 5th 6-weeks: Common Ancestry, Natural Selection, Taxonomy, Kingdoms
- 6th 6-weeks: Symbiosis, Food Webs and Food Chains, Biogeochemical Cycles, Environmental Change, Adaptation, Ecological Succession
- Students will complete a District Common Assessment during each 6-week period for a major grade

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work.

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty, includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.