



## Pre-AP Biology

Greg Barton

wbarton@ems-isd.net

Remind: text @gbarton to 81010

**Conference Period:** 6<sup>th</sup> period (1:40-2:30)

**Tutoring Opportunities:** In-person: during 5<sup>th</sup> period lunch / Remote: Virtual tutoring by appointment thru TEAMS;  
Office hours: M/W @ 10-11 am, T/TH @ 1-2 pm (Links can be found in Canvas)

### Class Materials:

- HMH Biology 2014 edition
- <https://my.hrw.com> (username: ems and your student ID [example: ems12345] password: ems and your student ID)
- Composition notebook
- Writing Utensil
- Canvas (homework and resources will be found here) list digital tool(s) that will be used for student coursework, i.e., Canvas, OneNote, etc.

Access to Canvas, Textbook 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. This course will have a greater emphasis on laboratory experiences, gathering and processing complex data and writing technical conclusions based on data. 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:

1. The student can use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems.
2. The student can engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the Pre-AP course.
3. The student can plan and implement data collection strategies appropriate to a scientific question.
4. The student can perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence.
5. The student can work with scientific explanations and theories.
6. The student can connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts, and representations in and across domains.

## Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 70% Major 30% 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 ten 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%.
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

## Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

There are daily assignments, activities, District Common Assessments, and labs. These will be completed through either in-person learning or remote. It is a district expectation that you login daily during remote learning to complete assignments.

## Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education—to benefit from teacher led and school activities, to build each day’s learning on the previous day’s, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student’s mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. Students shall have time equal to days absent from class plus one day to complete all missed assignments.

## In-person

- Attend class prepared to work.
- Follow all school policies.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Students will respect themselves, others, and school property.
- Students will be in their assigned seats and prepared for class when class is scheduled to begin.
- Students will be dismissed from class by the teacher, and only when work areas are clean.

## Remote

In order to be counted present in each class, every day, you have to communicate with your teacher for that class period every day. If you are counted absent, you will then need to communicate with the CTHS attendance office. Remember that in order to avoid truancy you must be present 90% of the time for a six-month period.

Attendance during and/or for remote learning means contacting **EACH** of your teachers each day. This can be:

- Logging into Canvas and doing your assignment, which is the preferred method
- Emailing your teacher
- Responding to an email from your teacher
- Logging into a TEAMS meeting with your teacher

- Responding to a Remind

Attendance **DOES NOT** mean:

- Turning in all assignments on one day of the week and then having no contact with your teacher afterward.

**Classroom Expectations:**

**Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments**

This year, pre-AP biology will be using the College Board's pre-AP curriculum. This will help our course be better aligned with AP Bio curriculum and help prepare our students for the challenging rigor of AP Bio should they choose that path later on in high school.

There are four Big Ideas that weave throughout the course, in each and every unit:

1. Evolution
2. Cycling of Matter / Transformation of Energy
3. Biological Systems
4. Genetic Mechanisms

The four units of pre-AP biology are:

1. Ecological Systems
2. Evolution
3. Cellular Systems
4. Genetics

**Here are the topics covered by six weeks:**

1<sup>st</sup> 6 Weeks

- Symbiosis, Food Webs/Chains, Biogeochemical cycles, Ecological Succession

2<sup>nd</sup> 6 Weeks

- Common Ancestry, Natural Selection, Taxonomy, Kingdoms, Prokaryote/Eukaryote Cells, Biomolecules, Enzymes

3<sup>rd</sup> 6 Weeks

- Transport & Homeostasis, Plant Transpiration/Transportation/Reproduction, Body System Interactions, Cell Cycle-Mitosis

4<sup>th</sup> 6 Weeks

- Cell Cycle-Mitosis, Cells vs. Viruses, Cell Respiration/Photosynthesis, DNA, Protein Synthesis, Mutations

5<sup>th</sup> 6 Weeks

- Meiosis, Cell Differentiation, Genetics

6<sup>th</sup> 6 Weeks

- End of Course STARR Review, Enrichment

**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.