**BIOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Mr. Pfoutz James M. Bennett High epfoutz@wcboe.org**

***Course Description:*** Students will explore life from the micro scale (cells) to the macro scale (ecosystems) and learn science as a field of study and as a way of thinking. I will emphasize individual growth as a student and as a person. Biology is a tested content area, meaning students must pass the Biology HSA exam (given in the month of May) in order to graduate. I closely follow the curriculum provided by the state of Maryland in order to prepare the students for the HSA .

***HSA Information:*** For more information regarding the HSA exam go to <http://hsaexam.org/>

***Classroom Habits:*** Rather than focusing on rules we will work towards instilling seven positive habits throughout the year. A copy of these habits will be sent home with students.

***Grading Scale:*** *100%-90% = A 89%-80% = B 79%-70% = C 69%-60% = D Below 60% = E*

***Grading Policy:***

40% Assessments. Assessments include tests, quizzes, and any projects/presentations. All tests will be announced ahead of time but I reserve the right to give quizzes unannounced*.*

35% Assignments. This category includes classwork and homework.

25% Participation. The majority of the participation grade comes from completion of the daily objectives/bell work/conclusion assignments. This will be explained in full detail to students during the first week.

***Text:*** McDougal Little. (2008) Biology. Houghton Mifflin Company

 ***Online Access:*** All students will be able to access the text online at <http://classzone.com>. Students will be required to enter an activation code (found below) while setting up their online account*.* The online version of the text includes the entire paper text along with many other helpful tools (animations, labs, study aids, etc…)

***Activation Code:*** 2641283-10

***Traditional Text:*** Students will also have the option to take home a traditional textbook. Students will sign out the text in the classroom and can keep this copy at home for the entire year or as long as needed.

***Notebooks/Organization:*** I expect students to remain organized. I recommend keeping all returned assignments *at least* until the end of the marking period. Keep all tests and quizzes until the end of the year. The two most traditional methods are a spiral notebook and a folder or a 3 ring binder. Students have the freedom to choose their preferred method of organization.

***Lateness:*** Students are marked late if they are not in their seats by the time the bell rings. Yes, that means that if you are walking in the door or standing by a friend’s desk when the bell rings you will be marked late. After the 3rd lateness students will be given a lunch detention to make up for time missed. I will also follow any additional lateness rules set forth in the student handbook. Referrals will be given if lateness is a chronic problem.

***Absences:*** Attendance correlates directly with student success. Missed work will be provided upon return but material will not be retaught.

***Late Work:*** Late work will be accepted for ½ credit up until a cutoff date about one week before the end of a marking term. I will announce this cutoff date in advance.

***Academic Integrity:*** I will follow all rules/consequences set forth in the student handbook.

***Multiple Opportunities:*** Students will be given ample opportunities for success in this class, however, this is not an easy class! I recommend taking 5 to 10 minutes *every night* to review and study notes from that day’s lesson. Come to class the next day with any questions. This will be the single most helpful study habit a student can form to help them be successful in high school and college studies.