

BERKS CATHOLIC

Christ Centered Academic Excellence

COURSE TITLE: Biology 1 (Pre-AP)
INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Mary Ann Buchanan
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2014 - 2015
COURSE TEXTBOOK: Biology
COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a study of living organisms. Students will investigate and study underlying similarities in all living things.
COURSE OBJECTIVES: The students will study living organisms, learn about their organization and complexity, perform laboratory investigations and analyze data collected.
RATIONALE: Students in this course will be expected to display the following “active thinking” processes involving creating, evaluating, analyzing, applying, understanding and remembering.

- COURSE OUTLINE**
1. Characteristics of life
 2. Heredity
 3. Change in Organisms
 4. Diversity in Organisms

METHOD OF GRADING

A. Quarter:

1. Homework - 10%
2. Lab work - 33%
3. Tests & Quizzes - 41%
4. In class assignments - 11%
5. Science Project - 5%

Quarter grading is done on a point system. The percents listed above represent the percentage of total points given to each category. (Example: homework = 66 points out of a total of 660 points in the quarter).

A. Semester:

1. First and second quarter grades - 80%
2. Exam - 20%

B. Final Grade:

1. Average of first and second semester grades

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Homework:
 - A. Reading - every night
 - B. Written - at least one assignment per week (may be lab report)
 - C. Tests - at least one per chapter (announced at least two days in advance)
 - D. Quizzes - always announced
 - E. Exams - Midterm and Final

CLASS POLICIES

1. Tests, assignments, and lab reports are usually returned within two to three days. Because of this, it is not a general policy to tolerate late assignments. The student will be required to sign a contract, which outlines the late policy. It is also expected that tests be made up within two days of return to school following an absence. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange to make up missed work.
2. Assignments are to be handed in on theme/loose-leaf paper. Points will be deducted from work handed in on other paper.
3. Most lab work missed should be made up. Sometimes when lab work involves living organisms or solutions with short shelf life, this will not be possible.
4. An independent science project is required. All students will display their projects at the school science fair which will be held on **January 9 & 10, 2015 (tentative date).**

5. Laboratory safety rules should be followed at all times as listed in the guidelines. Failure to do so may result in suspension of laboratory privileges.
6. Students must bring proper materials for class. Materials include text book (covered at all times), note book, pen or pencil and lab book (as directed).

Please understand that these are general policies. There are times when it is necessary to examine individual circumstances. (For example, if a student experienced a prolonged illness, they would not be expected to take tests missed within the prescribed two days).

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Please feel free to communicate with me at any time throughout the year. This can be done by through email. Email can be accessed through the Berks Catholic High School web site or mbuchanan@berkscatholic.org