

# Biology of the Living Earth Class Syllabus

Ms. Mary Drumonde 2020-2021

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**Classroom Website:** [High school homepage, Classrooms, Drumonde](#)

**Welcome to Biology!** Biology is the study of living things & it includes a wide variety of topics. This year we will learn how living things interact with & influence their environment, details of single & multicellular organisms & how they are similar & different, how & why cells reproduce, why cellular respiration & photosynthesis are important, how DNA & proteins influence living things, genetics & life's history on Earth. We'll learn about genetic engineering & its affect on modern medicine. We'll learn about man's impact on our planet Earth. Studying these various topics will allow you to use critical thinking skills while conducting scientific observations and inquiry experiments while learning how to approach & solve scientific problems. Hopefully, you'll also learn that science is both practical and fun.

Students will work on many different labs, projects & activities that are designed to increase their analysis & application skills as well as help them learn to use & evaluate new material. Students will regularly work on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning goals of Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking & Creativity as well as literacy, life & career skills.

**Class Rules:** All district guidelines for Distance Learning (DL) will be followed in this class. Our specific classroom guidelines are based on three basic principles: Respect, Responsibility & Safety. All students will follow all class rules:

## Ms. Drumonde's Classroom Expectations Matrix: (Also posted on our [Classroom School Website](#))

	BE RESPECTFUL	BE RESPONSIBLE	BE SAFE
VIRTUAL CLASS SESSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-<b>Start each virtual class meeting muted</b>, only mute when teacher tells you to do so or calls on you by name</li><li>-Keep <b>camera on</b> throughout all class or group meetings</li><li>-be polite &amp; respectful to all people by <b>staying focused on class</b>, work &amp; learning during all meeting types, no music or other distractions, use chat box for learning purposes only, raise your virtual hand</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Log on a few minutes before class meetings</li><li>-Participate in class meetings</li><li>-Check sound &amp; video are working correctly &amp; device/s charged or charging</li><li>-Have all necessary supplies ready to use</li><li>-<b>Be in a quiet environment whenever possible</b></li><li>-Use appropriate language</li><li>-Wear appropriate clothing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-<b>Do NOT share codes, passwords, student ID, etc. with others</b></li><li>-use your district account only for communication</li><li>-Only use given codes</li><li>-Use only trustworthy internet links/sites</li><li>-Use academic language</li><li>- <b>No pictures or audio/ visual recording without permission</b></li></ul>
NON-ATTENDANCE DAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Email teacher for help as needed <b>but I can only reply during office hours</b> since I'll be teaching live otherwise</li><li>-Contact classmates during acceptable times (7 am -7 pm)</li><li>-Be kind &amp; appropriate with peer interaction</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>you MUST do attendance assignment each day, even when not in class</b></li><li>-<b>Check Google Classroom daily</b> for materials, due dates, assignments, etc.</li><li>-Turn in all work done by its assigned due date &amp; time</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Use your own words and thoughts on assignments (<b>don't plagiarize</b>)</li><li>-Use trustworthy or given links &amp; sites for your research and work</li><li>-Be safe when using social media &amp; limit on-screen time</li></ul>
ASSIGNMENT COMPLETION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-<b>turn in your best work, don't settle for the minimum</b></li><li>-don't copy classmates' work/ answers or allow classmates to copy yours</li><li>-use appropriate academic language</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-<b>turn in by due date &amp; time</b> - read directions thoroughly</li><li>-check with your classmates for clarification on assignments, work, etc.</li><li>-ask teacher if you need additional help</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-<b>Make sure you click twice when turning in work</b></li><li>- Double check that needed files are attached</li><li>-Cite sources &amp; provide references when needed</li><li>- <b>don't plagiarize</b></li></ul>
ASSESSMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-respect yourself, your peers &amp; teacher by putting in your best effort</li><li>-<b>respect yourself: get enough rest, eat well &amp; stay hydrated</b></li><li>-don't copy classmates' answers &amp; don't allow classmates to copy your answers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>plan your time to give yourself enough time to study before quizzes or tests</b></li><li>-read directions thoroughly &amp; follow teacher instructions</li><li>-ask teacher if you need clarification</li><li>-turn in by due date &amp; time</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-No audio or visual recording or picture taking</li><li>-Use your own words and thoughts on assignments</li><li>- <b>Double check that you turned in the work (click twice) &amp; files are attached, if needed</b></li><li>-Make sure Device/s charged</li></ul>

In addition to the general class expectations listed above, the following also apply:

- **Notify teacher on a timely basis if there are submission issues, etc.**
- **Tardy Policy** - Students are expected to be in their seats ready to learn at the beginning of the session. They will be considered tardy if not logged into the virtual session within 5 minutes of the start of class. The School/District tardy policies as outlined in the student handbook will be enforced. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with this policy.
- **Absences/Make up** – It is the student's responsibility to identify assignments that need to be made-up. All class assignments and handouts are available through Google Classroom. Assignments, homework, and tests previously announced and due the day of the absence will be due the day the student returns to class. Absent work must be turned in within the number of days the student was absent, or it is considered late. Contact the teacher to arrange to make-up any quizzes, tests, or lab activities.
- **Late Work** – will only be accepted during the current six-week grading period. The maximum grade available for late work is 50%.
- **Group Work** – At times students will work in pairs and teams. During group work, answers and solutions may be freely shared, but all members are expected to contribute. Copying answers from another student's work without having helped to produce the product is *plagiarism* & will be treated as such.
- **Lab Safety:** Laboratory experiments are both fun & great learning tools. We may occasionally do some basic labs using household supplies (water, straws, baking soda, vinegar, food coloring, etc.). As such, all lab safety guidelines must be followed as working with chemical can also be dangerous if used improperly. Most of these lab procedures are basic and simple to follow. Use your commonsense at all times. Students will be given complete instructions before doing these. Misbehavior during these activities will result in a "zero" grade for the lab. Parent conference and referral to the Administration may follow

#### Consequences for Poor Behavior Choices-

1. One warning given
2. School Counselor &/or Parent contacted
3. Referral to School Administration for further action
4. Some behaviors (e.g. unsafe behavior) will earn immediate referral with no warning issued

Please refer to the Distance Teaching and Learning Expectations on classroom webpage.

**GRADING:** Grades are based on the following Grading Scale: **A= 90-100%; B= 80 – 89%; C= 70-79%; D= 60-69%; F = below 59%**

#### Grading Breakdown:

60% Tests/Quizzes, Final  
30% Projects, Labs, Activities,  
10% Homework, Classwork,  
Review Quizzes, etc.



Citizenship Grade: Needs improvement (N) or Unsatisfactory (U) issued for:

- Inappropriate (N) or unsafe (U) class behavior
- Several Tardys per term (3="N"; 6 Tardies = "U")

Work/Effort Grade: missing home/classwork, labs, tests, etc.

- few missing assignments = "N" (needs improvement)
- many missing assignments = "U" (unsatisfactory)

**ON LINE GRADEBOOK:** Student grades will be available for viewing on the school wide **Aries** online grading system. Grades are posted frequently. Students, Parents & Guardians are encouraged to check grades regularly.

**MATERIALS:** digital device (computer, tablet, cell phone, etc.), quiet work space (whenever possible), lined & plain white paper, black or blue pens, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, metric ruler, some lab materials as needed

**Class Videos:** Science appropriate videos will occasionally be shown in the classroom. These videos are generally short (about 5 minutes or so) & used to reinforce content. Many are from the Amoeba Sisters cartoon science content, HHMI (Howard Hughes Medical Institute) video bank or NOVA series. Examples of these videos are at <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmoebaSisters>

**Extra Credit:** Occasional extra credit opportunities will be given throughout the semester. It is the students' responsibility to keep track and take advantage of these opportunities.

**HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS & LATE WORK POLICY:** All assignments must be turned in on time to our Google Classroom. Unexcused late assignments will not be accepted. Exceptions are excused absences (e.g. illness) or previously discussed special circumstances. Students must have a discussion with the teacher well before the event or circumstance or late work will not be accepted.

**CHEATING**-Cheating or Plagiarism WILL NOT BE TOLERATED in any form! Violating testing conditions, copying work, giving work or answers to other students are all forms of cheating. *All persons involved in any type of cheating behaviors, for example giving or receiving answers, will receive a grade of zero for the cheated work.* This includes word for word answers with a fellow classmate on an assignment or lab.