# Biology

2021-2022


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Room S131

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## Course Overview:

Biology investigates the composition, diversity, complexity, and interconnectedness of life on Earth. Topics covered in Biology include the characteristics of living things, biochemistry, cell structures and processes, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, cell reproduction, DNA and RNA, genetics, biotechnology, evolution, and classification. Labs are a part of this course and all students are expected to participate in these learning experiences. Biology meets the Ohio Department of Education graduation requirement for life science.

## Course Objectives:

By the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Define life and describe the characteristics of life
- Understand heredity and how living things pass on genetic information
- Describe DNA and understand how genetic information is used to make proteins
- Be able to use Punnett squares to predict genetic outcomes
- Understand biotechnology and how it is used
- Understand evolution and evolutionary trends
- Use cladograms to recognize relationships between living things
- Identify cell structures and describe their function
- Understand cellular process (cellular transport, respiration, photosynthesis)

**Prerequisites:** none **Credits:** ½ credit per semester **Lab Fee:** $12

## Teacher Bio - Johnson

This is my 28th year of teaching science. All of them have been here at Whitmer High School. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Comprehensive Secondary Science from Bowling Green State University. I also have a Master's Degree in Science Education from BGSU. I have completed 36 credit hours of post-graduate coursework and hold a permanent teaching certificate in the state of Ohio. I am the Science Department Chair in addition to my teaching duties.

Personally, I have one child, my son Andrew, who is a 2012 Whitmer Alumni and a 2016 graduate of BGSU with a computer science degree. He was also a Shoreland Firebird! He currently lives and works in Maumee. I have a tabby cat named Honey. I live in Point Place, but grew up in Sandusky. I worked at Cedar Point for seven summers. Fun fact about Miss Johnson, I was born in Africa in the country of Ethiopia.

## Teacher Bio - Rao

This is my 32nd year of teaching. All of them have been here at Whitmer. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Education from IUP (Indiana University of Indiana). I have my Master's Degree from Marygrove College and have earned 18 credits beyond my Master's Degree. Personally I am married and have two grown children who are Whitmer Alumni. I enjoy spending time with my family and watching all sports Pittsburgh. Particularly Penguins hockey and Steeler Football. I lived near Pittsburgh during my high school and college years.

## Course Communication

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| **Class Announcements** | Google Classroom - Stream tab |
| **Email/Personal Messages** | ljohnson@wls4kids.org<br>419-473-8383 ext. 7817<br>Remind text messaging is available for both students and parents<br><br>Note: It may take up to 24 hours to receive a reply during the week and 48 hours on the weekend, so do not wait until the last minute to send a message if you need help. |
| **Online** | If we should ever need to hold class online, here is the Zoom meeting link. You will enter a waiting room. Please be sure to use your first and last name so that I can identify who is in the waiting room. Access will only be granted to students at their designated times for class. Have your video camera on or your profile picture visible. In most cases we would initially want students to be muted once class gets underway. |

## Grading Policy

***Grading:*** Each semester grade will consist of class work (85%) and the semester exam (15%). The class work grade will be made up of tests (50%) and labs, class work, and homework (50%).

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| ***Grade Scale:*** | 93 – 100 | A | 80 – 82 | B- | 67 – 69 | D+ |
| | 90 – 92 | A- | 77 – 79 | C+ | 63 – 66 | D |
| | 87 – 89 | B+ | 73 – 76 | C | 60 – 62 | D- |
| | 83 – 86 | B | 70 – 72 | C- | 0 – 59 | F |

***Late Work:*** No late work. All assignments are to be turned in on time. This includes make-up work, so be mindful of due dates! Please discuss this directly with me in class or by email, text, or phone if there are extenuating circumstances I need to be aware of.

## Required Texts, Materials, and Online Accounts

- Google Classroom links are below:
  2nd Hour 3rd Hour 6th Hour 7th Hour
- All links to the textbook(s) used in Biology will be provided in Google Classroom.
- **Materials for the Year:** Syllabus (signed), Lab Safety Agreement (signed), Goggles
- **Materials for Everyday:** binder (½ or 1 inch), paper (loose leaf or spiral), pen or pencil, Chromebook, ear buds
- **Optional Materials:** computer mouse, cell phone camera, Chromebook charger
- Resources for class will be available on the class website - more information to follow!

## Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to adhere to the Whitmer Code of Conduct.

**Classroom Rules and Procedures:**

1. *Food and Drink*: There is to be no food or drink consumed in class at any time. This includes candy. Do not bring bottles with beverages into class or they will be confiscated.
2. *Restroom breaks*: Use the facilities before you get to class. You will have 3 EMERGENCY passes to the restroom each quarter. These emergency passes may be issued at the teacher's discretion. (If a medical problem requires you to use the restroom more frequently, please provide a doctor's note to the school nurse.)
3. *Be prepared*: Everyday you should bring to class a chromebook, earbuds, charger, a pencil or pen, paper, and binder.
4. *Late work*: No late work. All assignments are to be turned in on time. This includes make-up work, so be mindful of due dates!
5. *Electronics*: All electronic devices, cell phones, earbuds, etc. should be used for educational purposes only.

**Lab Safety:** Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner in the science lab. A signed Lab Safety Agreement must be on file with the teacher in order to conduct any lab experiments. All lab safety rules will be followed. Failure to do so will result in serious consequences including, but not limited to removal from the classroom or suspension.

## Academic Honesty

Students are expected to do their own work. Copying from a classmate or allowing a classmate to copy from you is cheating and will result in a score of zero on the assignment in question. Plagiarism is NOT acceptable under any circumstances! All students have the responsibility to refrain from cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty. Students that partake in actions that are considered academically dishonest are subject to disciplinary action.

## Attendance Policy

Attendance rules and procedures will be followed according to the Whitmer Student Handbook. If you have questions or concerns regarding attendance issues, please contact the Attendance Office at 419-473-8492.

- **YOU** are responsible for your work when you are absent!
- Assignments for each day should be accessed through Google Classroom.
- In the event of an extended absence, make arrangements by contacting your teachers via e-mail or the attendance office. Communication is key!
- You have as many days to make-up missed assignments as you were absent.
- Make-up work typically cannot be done during regular class time.
- Students are allowed up to five excused absences per semester and still have the opportunity to earn full credit for the work missed on these days. Any additional absences after the fifth excused absence will be considered unexcused regardless of the reason for the absence (other than doctor, funeral, and court). Field trips and late to school are counted towards your five excused days.
- Credit for assignments missed during an unexcused absence will be reduced by 50% of whatever you earn on that assignment.
- Assignments missed because of behavior issues resulting in your removal from class cannot be made-up.
- Skipping class will result in zero credit for all assignments completed that day.

**Please refer to this document throughout the school year.**

**Please sign and submit the pdf of this syllabus**

**in Google Classroom no later than August 23, 2021.**

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