

**The Classical Academy**  
**Honors Biology**  
**Course Outline and Syllabus**  
**Dr. Chris Benjamin**  
**2021- 2022**

**CONTACT AND GENERAL INFO**

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**Phone Number:** 719-484-0091 ext. 1118

**Biology Text:** Miller, Levine. Miller & Levine Biology. Pearson Education, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. 2014.

**Extra help times:** Visit me during study hall or after school and by appointment

Dear Students,

I'm really looking forward to our school year together! My hope is that this year you learn a lot about the world we live in and how it works. I assure you, at times this biology class will be hard work, but I think you will find it both interesting and rewarding. Prepare to be both challenged and satisfied. You will find that I will always make myself available to help you succeed in this class.

This syllabus has lots of information you need and it should stay in your biology notebook. Please review all the information carefully and ask your parents to do the same. You will find the outline of behavior expectations, the supplies you'll need for class, academic expectations, grading policies, topics we will cover, etc. I'll need both your and your parent's signatures indicating that you have read and agree with the information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Benjamin

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

1. **Be Respectful:** Respect your teacher, classmates, and the materials in our classroom. This is a safe environment where you can express your ideas, but this means we agree to be supportive, kind, and encouraging to those around you and always act with integrity.
2. **Be Responsible:** Turn in assignments on time, take notes during class, and be organized.
3. **Be Prepared:** Be in your seat when the bell rings, with your materials on your desk and assignments completed.
4. **Participate:** Participate in **all** of the activities, labs, and discussions we have in class. Participating is key in order to learn, so I expect you to participate as much as you can daily. Asking questions is encouraged!

## BEHAVIOR VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

As you might expect, behavior beyond what is acceptable will result in consequences. Of course those resulting consequences will be proportional to the inappropriate behavior. As it is my responsibility to make clear the expected behavior, it will be your responsibility to comply. At the beginning I will outline my specific expectations and endeavor to remain consistent so that we all have the same understanding.

## CLASS WEBSITE (SCHOOLGY)

Our class website is on Schoology (<http://asd20.schoology.com/>). You should automatically have access to the Honors Biology course. (Find it by logging in → click on “Courses” → choose “Honors Biology”) You’ll find the following on the website: 1. Agenda: this has the HW and what we did every day on it. This should be the first place to go when you are absent from class and then come talk to your teacher. 2. Course Powerpoints and Handouts: If you want to review the powerpoints, or need to print off a handout that you lost from class, you can find them on Schoology.

## POLICIES

**Tardies:** Being late to class is not acceptable, you have 2 warnings and then consequences escalate from there (ex: phone call to parents, lunch detention, after-school detention). See school policy for more information.

**Homework:** School wide policy is that students are expected to self-advocate. Late assignments will be marked 20% off until the end of that unit. After the unit is over, they are a 0 and those points cannot be made up.

**Late pass:** I issue one homework late pass for standard nightly homework. With the pass, you can turn in the homework assignment any time and not receive the late penalty to the grade. *You still need to do the assignment!* If you don’t use it, you can pass it back in at the end of the semester. I’ll give you 5 extra credit points! Woo!

**Infinite Campus Warning:** When I enter grades I immediately mark assignments that have not been turned in as “missing” (0 points) on IC and change them to late when I later receive them. *“Missing” (and late) assignments rapidly decrease grades.* Do everything you can to complete and turn in assignments on time.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism or any form of copying from the internet, student, or other sources on quizzes, tests, and specified individual work will result in a zero for that assignment, an office referral, and parent notification.

**Absence/Attendance:** *YOU* are required to check the Absent Work folder, my Handout binder, and materials on Schoology if you are absent. You will receive **two days** to turn in assignments for each day you are absent. That means if it was due Monday, you have until the next class period on Wednesday to turn it in. If you need clarification for an assignment, feel free to come talk to me.

**Lab Safety:** It is imperative that students use safe laboratory techniques at all times. Failure to adhere to the safety requirements in the lab will result in the removal of the student from the lab (and a zero for that lab’s grade) to safeguard the entire class and their work.

## SUPPLIES

1. Personal supplies:
  - a. 1 Graph paper composition notebook (For taking notes, recommend one per semester)
  - b. 1 3-ring binder (For HW and other handouts)
  - c. Writing Utensils: Pencils, pens, red pen, highlighter, dry erase marker
  - d. Sticky tab dividers or small post-it notes (Used for bookmarking where you are in your notebook)
  - e. Calculator (graphing calculators work great)

2. Classroom use (*Generic brands work!*)
  - a. Last Name: A-M: Box of tissues and Liquid hand soap
  - b. Last Name: N-Z: Clorox wipes and a roll of paper towels

## TOPICS

### Fall Semester: Foundation Information of Living Organisms

- Unit 1: Scientific Method
- Unit 2: Chemistry of Life
- Unit 3: Cells: Structure and Function
- Unit 4: Cell Energy: Photosynthesis and Cell Respiration
- Unit 5: Cell Reproduction: Cell Cycle, Mitosis, and Meiosis

### Spring Semester: Groups of Organisms – Structure, Function and Life Cycles

- Unit 6: Heredity
- Unit 7: Gene Expression: DNA, RNA and Genetic Engineering
- Unit 8: Evolution
- Unit 9: Kingdoms of Life: Viruses, Prokaryotes, Protists, Fungi, Plants and Animals
- Unit 10: Ecology

## GRADING

This class will use the standard grade scale at TCA (93 – 100% = A, 90 – 92.9% = A-, etc.).

## APPROXIMATE GRADE PERCENTAGES

35%: Assessments (Tests, quizzes, etc.)

25%: Lab Work (Labs and reports)

15%: Daily Work (Homework, handouts, in class activities, projects)

10%: Bellwork (Daily concept checks)

15%: Final Exam (One per semester)

\* Nothing is weighted in my class, which means everything stays consistent with the points given for each assignment. Ex: Test is worth 100 points while a Homework assignment might be 10 points.

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*Return this page to school no later than Monday, August 31. Thanks!*

### **TEACHER- STUDENT CONTRACT**

**Teacher:** I, Dr. Benjain, will facilitate a fair, stimulating, and consistent learning environment. I will include constructive learning activities, return student work in a timely fashion, and be available for students if they need extra help. My goal is for each student to learn, and I will do my best to help each student learn the required content no matter what it takes.

**Student and Parent/Guardian:** I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student name), have read the attached expectations, grading policy, and communication guidelines and agree to follow them. I understand that this class runs on respect, responsibility, preparedness, and participation and will work hard to follow these expectations and policies. I will contact Ms. Romero as soon as possible with any questions or concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Parent/Guardian Note:** Please make sure your email addresses and phone numbers are up to date in Infinite Campus. This way I can contact you easily when necessary.