

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class #: \_\_\_\_\_



## Course Expectations

# Biology

Reed High School  
Mr. Klapp



## Course Philosophy

Science is a way of approaching the world in which we live. It is about looking at things from lots of perspectives and thinking critically. In this class, more than anything, you will be asked to think. Because this is biology, you will be asked to think about how living things interact, evolve, survive, and continue to exist. You learn how plants, insects, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and microscopic creatures interact with one another and their environment. We will strive to have a ton of fun, work hard, and stretch our minds as we discover the role we play in a biologically diverse community.

## Your Responsibilities

Your education is mostly your responsibility. Understandably, part of the responsibility lies with me as your teacher, and some lies with your peers as well. I have some high expectations that I am confident you can meet if you dedicate yourself to your work. **I can promise you this class will not be easy, nor will it be boring.** I will work to teach you science in a way that is interactive and exciting, and I will treat you with respect and fairness. In return, I ask the following from you:

- **Attendance & Make-Up Work** Coming to class is the first step to being successful. If you have to miss class, it is up to you to make up the work you missed. You must check in with me, go to [reedwrestling.com/bio](http://reedwrestling.com/bio), or contact your peers to find out what you missed. If you miss a lab, you will be given opportunities to make it up at **lunch on Fridays**. I collect all work on Mondays so you should still be able to turn it in on time in most cases.
- **When you Get to Class** When the class period starts you are expected to be in your seat working on the *Topic for the Day* listed on the board. You are also expected to have **only** the materials required for class on your desk. This too will be listed on the board.
- **Assignments** Most of your grade will depend on how you perform on assignments in class, and some will be homework. **If you complete all the assignments on time, you will pass this class, regardless of how you do on tests.** You are expected to hand in work on time, however I understand that sometimes extenuating circumstances prevent you from turning in your work at the required time. With that in mind, I will accept one late assignment each quarter for full credit and a second for ½ credit. I will not accept a third late assignment.
- **Homework** **I will assign homework each Monday due the following Monday.** If we do not have school on a Monday, I will assign/collect work on Tuesday. If you are not at school on the first day of a week, you are still expected to turn it in on time. You know there will be homework each Monday—it is your responsibility to find out what it is.
- **Materials** You are expected to provide a spiral-bound notebook exclusively for this class. We will not use a text book much in this course, and at the same time, I understand that some of you may wish to check one out as a resource and you will be permitted to do so. If you choose to check out a book, you will not need to bring it to school as we will have a set available in the classroom as well. Each day you must bring the following to class:
  - Pen and or pencil
  - Biology notebook
  - Binder dedicated to biology

- **Behavior & Participation: The Classroom as a Community**

- **Your actions affect others.** Unfortunately, many students do not see how their behavior affects the people around them. When you choose to study, participate, and work hard, your knowledge and focus help the class learn more. You can help your peers when they struggle, and you help the class keep the focus on learning new and exciting material. If you engage in disruptive behavior, disrespect your peers, fail to pay attention, and fail to study, these actions hurt the entire class. If you disrupt the class I am forced to deal with your disruption instead of teach. If you fail to pay attention, I have to use class time to draw you back in. If you fail to study, you require that we review material instead of moving on.
- **Some of your disruptive peers fail to see that their actions are stealing your education.** Many science teachers consequence classes by not conducting exciting labs with unruly classes instead resorting to worksheets and bookwork. In these cases, the quality of your education is damaged, and you may not even know.
- **Most students support unruly behavior** by laughing at disruptive peers, encouraging inappropriate language, helping pass notes, and creating a climate of disinterest in the classroom. I intend to help you create a classroom environment where you can focus on learning, and part of this process is helping you and your peers see how you affect one another.
- **I strongly believe we are a community— consequences will reflect this.** If you behave in a positive manner, I will often reward the entire group. On the other hand, if you make poor choices, there is a good chance the entire class will be consequence as well. Your actions affect others, and this class will help you see how much this is true. You and your peers will contribute potential consequences to be placed in a jar. When you or one of your peers disrupts the class, he or she will draw a consequence from the jar and do what it requires. Some of these consequences will affect the entire group—others only the individual. Sometimes, outstanding group or individual behavior will result in class “Get Out of a Consequence Free” pass that can be used when the class chooses.
- **Continued disruption** and/or refusal to accept accountability for your actions will result in you being asked to leave the room. This will be a classroom where students who want to learn will have the opportunity to do so. If you are not interested in contributing to a learning environment, you will be asked to leave until you are willing to contribute in a positive way. Continued problems will result in detentions, conferences, referrals to the office and development of a personalized behavior plan.

## Grades

**Your academic grade** is based on an earned points system, which is then converted to a percentage. You have the right at any point during the year to know your grade. It is your responsibility to stay on top of your work and if you ask me at an appropriate time during class I will be happy to tell you your grade. 20% of your grade will be your final exam and the rest will be divided somewhat evenly between labs/projects, classwork, and homework.

A	95-100%	B	85-89%	C	75-79%	D	65-69%	F	<60%
A-	90-94%	B-	80-84%	C-	70-74%	D-	60-64%		

The **citizenship grade** will be equally split between **work-ethic** and **behavior**. You will have the opportunity to self-assess each unit and these assessments will determine your grades. You know what kind of citizen you are. I expect you to have the integrity to reflect on your performance honestly. If I feel your self-assessment is way off-base, I will discuss this with you. Here is a general guideline:

<b>Behavior Expectation</b>	<b>Work-Ethic Expectation</b>
To me behavior involves being a negative, neutral or positive influence in class. If you are disruptive that is poor behavior, but the best students will be notably missed when absent. For full credit in behavior, you should be a positive contributor and more than just quiet and undistruptive.	To have the highest marks in work-ethic, you must be pushing yourself to learn. Yes, your work should be in on time and it should be complete. It should also be exemplary and demonstrate a high level of investment. You know how hard you work—evaluate it appropriately.

## Dear Parent or Guardian:

I welcome you to the upcoming school year. On behalf of all of the faculty and staff at Reed we are extremely excited for the educational opportunity we will have with your student. The following are a few items that I would like to bring to your attention regarding your child's biology course this year.

- **Lab Fees** As stated in the Registration Catalog for the 2014-2015 school year, there will be a lab fee for your child's science class this year (\$10 Biology and Honors Biology). The fees that are collected will be used for a variety of materials that make this class a hands-on learning experience for the student. The fees are spent on disposable items such as glassware, lab items, project materials, specimens, animal care, as well as other miscellaneous items that help supplement our science curriculum, enhance teacher instruction, and assist in student learning and organization. If these fees are already paid through the Reed website or any other means please provide a receipt to me. They are due on August 18<sup>th</sup>. If this is an immediate financial inconvenience please explain in the Biology Contract on your student's behalf detailing how the fees will be paid at a future date.
- **Video and Picture Release** During the year I will be taking pictures and video of labs and learning activities conducted within the class and, in some cases post them on our class website via youtube. If you object to videos/pictures being taken of your child for educational purposes only please notify me on the Biology Contract.
- **Internet Access** As you may already know, science is a subject that continues to grow and expand its knowledge base. In order to keep the class up-to-date on this new information, as a class we will use the internet to conduct research. The internet also contains a variety of science activities such as conceptual labs that we will utilize. The students will be under my supervision at all times. If you object to your student's use of the internet, please notify me on the parent signature page.
- **Grades, Homework & Assignments** Throughout the school year, I will be using Infinite Campus to post student grades. Grades will be updated every week; however, due to the grading of assignments and posting grades, my postings may be about one week behind. I encourage you to regularly use this tool and contact me with questions or concerns. I will also post homework and copies of assignments as well as other resources on our class website: [reedwrestling.com/bio](http://reedwrestling.com/bio).

Your cooperation and support throughout the school year is appreciated. Your student also received a list of course expectations that you should look over as well. If you have any questions, please contact me at 353-5700 or you can e-mail me [mklapp@washoeschools.net](mailto:mklapp@washoeschools.net)

Sincerely,

Michael Klapp

# Reed High School Science Department Safety Procedures

1. Perform the experiments as directed. Only perform the approved experimental procedures. Follow all instructions given by the teacher.
2. Be properly prepared to do the experiment. Read the written procedures in advance and understand what you are going to do. Lack of familiarity is a major cause of accidents. Know the hazards before you do the experiment.
3. Never work in the lab without the supervision of the teacher.
4. Wear appropriate protective equipment. Working with glassware, heat, chemicals, or dissection specimens requires the use of protective safety glasses.
5. Know the location of the fire blanket, eyewash, and fire extinguisher.
6. Act in a responsible manner at all times. Horseplay and lack of attention to details of the experiment can cause accidents.
7. Tie back long hair to keep it away from flames and chemicals.
8. Never taste a chemical. Check odors only if instructed to do so by gently wafting some of the vapor towards your nose with your hand.
9. Turn off your Bunsen burner or other heat source whenever you are not using it. Never let it operate unattended.
10. Treat burners by putting burned area under cold water for at least 15 minutes. This will reduce the subsequent pain and blisters.
11. Read chemical labels very carefully. Many injuries result from mixing the wrong chemicals.
12. Eating and drinking in a lab are forbidden.
13. Report all accidents and injuries to your teacher immediately.
14. Dispose of chemicals properly per the directions of the teacher.
15. Clean up all spills immediately. This includes water.
16. Treat all chemicals with the respect they deserve. Know the hazards before you handle the chemical.
17. Never take chemicals, supplies, or equipment out of the classroom without the knowledge and consent of the teacher.
18. Never return unused chemicals to the reagent bottle.
19. Wash off chemicals splashed or spilled on your skin or body immediately for 15 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing at once.
20. Clean your lab station at the end of the lab and wash your hands.

# Mr. Klapp's Biology Contract (Due August 18<sup>th</sup>)

**Lab Fee:** Please attach the \$10 lab fee to this page. If this is an immediate financial inconvenience to your family please write me a note (below) on you student's behalf extending the date when the fees can be paid. If these fees are already paid through the Reed website or any other means please provide a receipt to me.

If the fee cannot be paid now, please let me know when you will have it in.

I have read the **Course Expectations** document and understand it including the following:

Student Initial	Parent Initial	
		Homework will be assigned on Mondays and collected the following Mondays. I am responsible to do this on time even if I miss the Monday it is assigned and can access assignments on <a href="http://reedwrestling.com/bio">reedwrestling.com/bio</a> .
		I am only permitted two late assignments per quarter, one for full credit and one for ½ credit. These must be turned in within a reasonable timeframe.
		I am not required to have a textbook for this class but am expected to have a notebook and binder dedicated to science by August 18 <sup>th</sup> .
		Poor behavior during class will not result in skipping labs or activities, but can result in appropriate group consequences.

Comments: (Please do not initial if you are not comfortable with any of the **Course Expectations** and kindly explain your objections below.)

		I agree to the <b>video and picture release for educational purposes</b> .
--	--	--

Comments/Objections:

		I approve the use of the <b>internet</b> for science research.
--	--	--

Comments/Objections:

Student Initial	<b>Safety Agreement:</b> I have read, understand, and agree to follow these science <u>safety</u> procedures. I agree to abide by additional instructions, written or verbal, provided by my science teacher during all labs or issues relating to safety.

Student's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Class# \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

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