

CLASS RULES AND INFORMATION

WELCOME

Welcome to biology, a required, college prep course. It is recognized by both the University of California and California State University systems as a laboratory life science class. Successful completion of both semesters of this class will fulfill one year of the science requirement for both university systems and Valhalla High School.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Go to school and come to class. Lockout is **NOT** enforced in biology, so come to class, even if you are late (see late work under assignments).
2. Respect yourself, everyone, and everything in this room and USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE.
3. Following instructions on laboratory exercises is extremely important. Any unauthorized experiments, use of laboratory equipment or supplies, or horseplay is grounds for expulsion from this class.
4. If you talk during class, interrupt me or other students, distract/disturb other students, etc., you will be assigned a Teacher Assigned Suspension (TAS). When you receive a TAS, you will immediately leave class AND lose credit for *everything* done and assigned in class that day.
5. Each student is entitled to the *entire* class to finish his or her exam. Therefore, all students will be quiet and respectful until everyone has turned in their exam. When you finish your exam, I strongly suggest that you bring a book, finish homework from other classes, or sit quietly.
6. If you are failing (64.9% or below) biology, I will not allow you to miss class for a school-sponsored event, including field trips of any kind, sporting and cheerleading events, band events, ASB events, etc. You must be passing class (65% or higher) for me to approve an excuse list. There are NO EXCEPTIONS!
7. We will all leave together when everyone is sitting at their own desk and there is no trash on the floor.

GRADING

All grades are calculated on a straight scale, which is as follows:

GRADE	RANGE
A	100% -----> 90.0%
B	89.9% -----> 80.0%
C	79.9% -----> 70.0%
D	69.9% -----> 65.0%
F	64.9% and below

NOTE: The lowest passing grade is 65.0%.

The grading scale is fixed, non-negotiable, and will not change according to student achievement (I do **NOT** grade on a curve and neither does any other biology teacher). All of the grades will be recorded on a computer, which rounds decimals to the nearest *tenth*. Therefore, 89.9% is a B+ and **the lowest passing grade is 65.0% (64.9% and below is failing)**! Grades are available at the class web site (<http://members.cox.net/mrhalverson1>) and will be posted every Thursday evening.

EATING/DRINKING/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Food, including candy, and drinks may not be brought into class and you may NOT eat or drink in class at any time. If I see food or drinks in class, I will confiscate them from you. If you eat or drink in class, I will confiscate your food or drink and you will receive detention. In addition, you may not sell any food items (for sports, ASB, clubs, cheerleading, or any other extracurricular activity) during class, or I will confiscate the items.

**Let this serve as your warning...do NOT bring food or drink to class!
NO eating or drinking in class!**

Music players and cell phones are allowed in class but if these or other items are disruptive (such as listening to your mp3 player or using your cell phones during class) I will confiscate them.

ASSIGNMENTS

All work done for this class will be classified as one of the following:

1. **Exams:** Exams will account for 60% of your grade. I do NOT record exam scores until you return the corrected exam to me. Therefore, if you do not return the corrected exam to me, you will receive 0 points (0 out of 100) on the exam. I will keep all exams, but if you want to see any of your exams, stop by my office.
2. **Labs:** Labs will account for 15% of your grade and usually consist of an activity between you and your partner and/or use of equipment.
3. **Final:** The final will account for 20% of your grade. It is cumulative and composed of 200 multiple choice questions.
4. **Homework:** Homework will account for 5% of your grade. You will receive homework approximately 2 to 4 times per week, depending on the topic.

Extra Credit: I do **NOT** give extra credit. Therefore, I encourage you to turn in all of your completed assignments on time.

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS!

Late work is work not turned in on time, regardless of the reason (see below for absences). If you are late to class and/or don't have it when it's due, then it's late, and you will receive 0 points for that assignment. *I do not accept work after school or at lunch.*

MAKEUP POLICY

If **you** are absent, it is **your** responsibility to get the assignments from me ***before or after class.*** ***Do not ask me for makeup work during class.*** You have as long as you were absent to make up the work (if you were absent two school days, then you have two school days to make up the work). If you do not get the make up work from me, then you lose credit for all missed assignments.

Exams are made up at lunch or after school (not during 7th period), and will be made up ***3 school days*** after the regular exam. ***It is your responsibility to remember to take the makeup exam.***

Labs are unique. Once I clean up a lab, I cannot set it up again for one student. Therefore, whatever percent you earn on the exam for that unit, you will receive the same percent for the lab that you were absent for. For instance, if you earn an 86% on the exam, you will earn 86% of the points on the missed lab (86% of 30 points is 25.8 or 26). If you do miss a lab, I suggest that you see me for a copy *and* speak with someone who was in class to find out what happened during the lab. The exams may contain questions concerning the labs and you will be responsible for them.

BATHROOM PASSES

You will be issued three bathroom passes per semester. If you do not use the bathroom passes, they may be used to make up missing assignments. To receive make up points for the unused bathroom passes, you must have the bathroom passes on your desk as soon as your final exam begins. Late bathroom passes will NOT be accepted.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to do their own work on **ALL** assignments, unless otherwise directed by the teacher. Academic dishonesty is the unauthorized use of notes, books, other students, or any other source for answers. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: cheating on tests, unauthorized collaboration (such as copying homework!), copying labs, plagiarism (claiming someone else's work as your own), theft or alteration of materials, yelling out answers, giving someone the answer(s)

Academic dishonesty includes copying assignments from other classes. If I suspect you are cheating for another class while in my class, I will confiscate the assignment and present the materials to the other teacher. The consequences for academic dishonesty are as follows

First Offense = referral to the assistant principal for academic dishonesty AND no credit (zero points) on the assignment

Second Offense = referral to the assistant principal for academic dishonesty AND dropped from class with loss of credit

Third (or more) Offense at Valhalla = referral to the assistant principal for academic dishonesty AND dropped from class with loss of credit

ACCOUNTABILITY/RESPONSIBILITY

Each of you is accountable and responsible for your behavior and **ALL** of the work in this class. Missing class to attend any extracurricular events (including field trips, sports, band, etc.) is your choice and you are treated as being absent (see makeup policy). No one gets "excused" from any assignment.

I am accountable and responsible to you, your parents, and the principal, for my behavior and actions. Because of this, I enforce my classroom rules and the school rules, even if other teachers don't. I don't have control over the other teachers and what they do or don't do in the classroom, but I do have control over what happens in my classroom.

UNIT SCHEDULE

All assignments are listed on your unit schedule. The unit schedule also lists unit objectives, or items that you must know (be able to explain in writing) for each exam. In addition, each unit schedule identifies which Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs) and California Science Content Standards (CSCS) are targeted by each assignment. See the class web for more information.

MY OFFICE LOCATION/HOURS

I have an open door policy, so you may call, email, or stop by my office if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.



Office location: room 313



Office phone: (619) 593 - 5477



Email: mhalverson@guhsd.net



Web site: <http://members.cox.net/mrhalverson1>



Mailing address: Mr. Halverson

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TENTATIVE COURSE OVERVIEW

The Science of Life

Chemical and Cellular Basis of Life

Energy of Life

Growth And Reproduction

Genetics, DNA, and Biotechnology

Changes Through Time, Evolution

Ecology

Human Body Systems

UNDERSTANDING OF THE CLASS RULES AND LAB RULES

I have read and understand all of Mr. Halverson's Class Rules and Information AND Lab Rules and Procedures. I understand that Mr. Halverson will hold me accountable/responsible for my behavior, attendance, and all of the work assigned in his class. *I understand that I may be dropped from class for breaking lab rules and procedures.*

signature of student

signature of parent/legal guardian

✂ cut on dotted line and save ✂

Mr. Halverson's Biology Web Pages

<http://members.cox.net/mrhalverson1/>

- at the web site you will find:

Grades (updated every Thursday night)

Unit Schedule (a calendar showing ALL class assignments and activities and objectives for the exams!)

Parents/Legal Guardians: Keep this portion so you can visit the class web site!

**VALHALLA HIGH SCHOOL
BELL SCHEDULES 2007 – 2008
REGULAR DAY**

PERIOD	START	END	MINUTES
1	7:25	8:19	54
Passing	8:19	8:25	6
2	8:25	9:19	54
Passing	9:19	9:25	6
3	9:25	10:19	54
Nutrition Break	10:19	10:29	10
Passing	10:29	10:35	6
4	10:35	11:30	55*
Passing	11:30	11:36	6
5	11:36	12:30	54
Lunch	12:30	1:00	30
Passing	1:00	1:06	6
6	1:06	2:00	54
Passing	2:00	2:06	6
7	2:06	3:00	54

COLLABORATION DAY

PERIOD	START	END	MINUTES
1	8:50	9:33	43
Passing	9:33	9:39	6
2	9:33	10:22	43
Passing	10:22	10:28	6
3	10:28	11:11	43
Passing	11:11	11:17	6
4	11:17	12:01	44*
Passing	12:01	12:07	6
5	12:07	12:50	43
Lunch	12:50	1:20	30
Passing	1:20	1:26	6
6	1:26	2:09	43
Passing	2:09	2:15	6
7	2:15	2:58	43

Collaboration Days

August 27
 September 10, 17, 24
 October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 November 5, 19, 26
 December 3, 10, 17
 January 7, 14, 28
 February 4, 25
 March 3, 10, 31
 April 7, 14, 21, 28
 May 5, 12, 19

MINIMUM DAY

PERIOD	START	END	MINUTES
1	7:44	8:19	35
Passing	8:19	8:25	6
2	8:25	9:00	35
Passing	9:00	9:06	6
3	9:06	9:41	35
Passing	9:41	9:47	6
4	9:47	10:22	35
Nutrition Break	10:22	10:32	10
Passing	10:32	10:38	6
5	10:38	11:13	35
Passing	11:13	11:19	6
6	11:19	11:54	35
Passing	11:54	12:00	6
7	12:00	12:35	35

Minimum Days

August 29

September 26

October 31

November 16 (Parent Visitation Day)

November 28

January 30

April 2

April 30