

Mr. Westfall

Basic Life Science, Fall 2017

Website: <http://westfallscience.weebly.com/>

**The Course:** Basic life science is an introductory life science class. We will cover a variety of topics that include, but are not limited to the scientific method, the designation of living things, ecology, cells, classifying, plants, invertebrates, vertebrates, nutrition and health, body systems, genetics, and the history of the Earth. Labs will be spread out over the year to supplement the course work.

**Textbook:** Life Science, Globe Fearon, 1986

A home version of the textbook will be provided for each student in the course. There will always be class sets available in the classroom as well.

**What you need:**

A **three-ring binder** with lots of **binder paper** and a **composition book**. You may keep your binder in the back of the room, but don't forget to take it home when you need to study. If you do choose to leave it in the back of the room, I cannot guarantee its safety. Leave it there at your own risk.

**How to do well in my class:**

You need to be in class everyday! Class time is when I give hints about what is important to study, when tests and quizzes will occur, when projects are due, etc. Every assignment goes towards your grade. In general, your grade is calculated using a non-weighted points system, but is loosely classified with the following percentages: Exams will be about 30% of your total grade, quizzes 20%, homework, classwork, and current events 20%, labs 20%, and the final exam 10%.

**Mr. Westfall's expectations:**

**Assigned seating-** You will be given an assigned seat on the first day of class. Please sit there everyday. It is my prerogative to change your seat at anytime.

**Respect-** Please do what I ask, do not talk when I'm talking, and be positive. I do not like negative comments or behavior in my classroom. When arriving to class, check the board for the "first thing" assignment, and begin working on it. Talking or making noise during exams or quizzes could result in a zero grade for that assignment. All students have the right to learn in my classroom, and no one has the right to make distractions that take away from learning. You will be removed from my classroom if you take the opportunity of learning away from others.

**Late and Tardy-** Arrive to class on time. On time means in your seat when the bell rings. If you arrive up to 6 minutes after class begins, you will receive a detention from your teacher. After 6 minutes, the office will issue you a detention. This is a school-wide rule.

**Absent and make-up work-** You have the number of days you missed (if they are excused) to make up your work. If they are unexcused, you receive a zero for all days missed. It's your responsibility to find out what assignments you missed from a classmate or from me. Checking the right side of the white board is a good place to see what assignments have been given. This goes for tests and quizzes also. Turn in late work to the late work folder in the front of the room. Unexcused absences receive a zero for that day or assignment. You need to see me before or after class to get absent assignments, or to check your grades. **I will not take class time to get your late assignments for you or check your grade.** This must be handled at a time when I am not busy. Please take advantage of the fact that you can check your grades at any time using the aeries.net service that the school provides.

**Late work-** It is the science department's policy not to accept late work. If you forget your folder or notebook, you will receive a zero for that assignment. If something is due on a certain day, you need to bring the assignment with you to class to turn in. You may not be allowed to go back to your locker to get the missed assignment. If something comes up, please talk to your instructor.

**Cell phones/Electronic devices** Please put away all electronics before the bell rings. I will follow the school policy for electronics, including phones and I-pods. The first time they are confiscated, you will have to pick them up after school from the back office. The second time, a parent and guardian will need to pick them up. The third time, the school will keep the item for the rest of the year. Please do not try to get away with listening to I-pods/MP3s under your hair or hoods.

**Classroom talking-** Please do not talk when others are talking. Your excessive interruptions may result in you being sent out of the classroom, detention, or in-house detention.

**Eating-** We're lucky at SHS to have a snack period. Please try to eat and drink then. If you need to bring food or drink in the classroom, please clean up after yourself. Mark your snacks and drinks with the available Sharpie pen. If something is left behind with your name on it, you will face the consequences.

**Discipline Steps-** 1. You get a verbal warning to change your behavior.

2. Detention- regular or in house and a call home 3. Detention until I can meet with you and a parent or guardian to go over a class contract 4. Removal from class/office detention for the rest of the year.

**Assignments-** Assignments and exam/quiz announcements will be written on the board when they are given. It is your responsibility to check the assignment board frequently.

Contact Information- I prefer email as my primary contact, and I may be reached at

[jwestfall@sonorahs.k12.ca.us](mailto:jwestfall@sonorahs.k12.ca.us) If phone communication is required, please call the school office and leave a message.

**Bathroom Policy-** At the beginning of the semester, you will receive a pass that will allow you to leave the room four times for five minutes each time. Fill out the pass in ink with your name and date before you have the teacher sign it. This minimizes interruptions. Each unused line on the pass is 5 points extra credit at the end of the semester.

*I have read and understand this syllabus.*

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*Name of student (print)*

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*Signature of student and date*

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*Name of Parent or Guardian (print)*

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*Signature of Parent or Guardian and date*