



## **Hull High School Biology Syllabus 2023-2024**



### **Class Information:**

Mr. Keith McKay

Mr. Ed Cameron

Room C119

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**Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,**

**Mr. Cameron and I will be working together to teach Biology for the 2023-2024 school year. This will be my 6<sup>th</sup> year teaching science at Hull High School; I previously worked as a chemist for over 10 years, but in 2017 I decided to leave the commercial science industry to become a teacher. You will find that I am passionate and enthusiastic about all types of science, and my goal is to inspire others to become interested in science as well! Mr. Cameron has been a special education teacher at Hull High School for 8 years, and he has also coached soccer, lacrosse, and basketball. We look forward to working with you throughout the coming year!**

**Sincerely,**

**Mr. McKay**

### **CLASS OVERVIEW:**

The purpose of Biology is to provide science students with a foundational understanding of the living world that surrounds them. Key topics that will be covered include characteristics of life, biochemistry, cell structure and function, energy in organisms, genetics, human body systems, evolution, and ecology. Instruction will consist of lessons, demonstrations, class discussions, and laboratory activities. This course is aligned with the 2016 Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

### **CLASS MATERIALS:**

#### **Chromebook/Binder**

Students will use their Chromebook/Google Classroom and various apps to organize class materials and to complete assignments. A binder will be provided for students to organize paper materials and assignments (this binder will stay in the classroom most of the time but may be removed with permission).

## **GENERAL RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

As part of the Hull High School Academic Expectations, students will be competent problem solvers, effective writers and readers, and capable users of technology. Students are expected to attend class daily, be on time for class, and arrive prepared to learn. It is also expected that students will respect themselves and each other, take pride in their work, and always put forth their best effort. Cell phones are not allowed in class unless permitted by the teacher during special circumstances. Food is also not allowed in class unless permitted by the teacher during special circumstances. Drinks are allowed if they are stored in a suitable container, but they are not allowed in the lab bench areas. Students in this class are required to come to class with all necessary materials including a charged Chromebook and a pencil. Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated.

## **LATE WORK/ABSENCES:**

Late work may be accepted until the end of each quarter. If you are absent, you are still expected to complete any work that you have missed! It is your responsibility to work with a teacher to complete any missed work.

## **GRADING POLICY:**

### **Assignments**

Grades will be calculated using a point-based system. In a point-based system, each assignment is given a point value. For example, a standard classwork assignment will be worth 10 points while a lab activity or quiz may be worth 30 points. Your quarterly grade will be determined by points earned divided by total points multiplied by 100. Grades will be updated periodically on Aspen, and I will use the following special codes: **A** (absent, counts as zero but can be made up), **M** (missing assignment, counts as a zero), **R** (received but not graded), or **E** (excused). Acts of plagiarism will result in zeros for grades that cannot be made up and possible administrative action.

### **Participation**

Each day, students may be given a warm-up question at the beginning of class and an exit ticket at the end of class. Students are expected to participate during all lessons and all activities, and a participation grade of 0-10 points will be given weekly.

### **Final Exam**

A final exam or project will be assigned at the end of the school year and will account for 10% of a student's overall grade for the academic year.