Dear Students and Parents,
Welcome to Biology! The following information is given to help you understand what is expected of you in this course. If you have questions about anything discussed, please do not hesitate to ask.

Materials you will need for class:
- Laptop or tablet with keyboard
- Some way to stay organized
- Paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Positive attitude

Classroom Expectations
The policy in my class is simply RESPECT. Everyone in this class has the right to pursue education in a safe and supportive atmosphere. I expect you to respect yourself, your classmates and the learning environment at all times.

Laboratory
Expensive equipment is used continually throughout this course. Students may be held responsible for the cost of repair or replacement of equipment they have purposely or accidentally damaged. Some labs involve the use of dangerous chemicals or equipment. The safety contract is intended to be read and followed at ALL times in the biology classroom and laboratory.

**Important note:** Safety violations are very serious and any offense will not be tolerated. Students will be removed from the lab and will face administrative disciplinary action.

Grading
Your grade in this class will be calculated with the following categories and weights:

- **Unit Assessments** (30%) - Tests are always announced several days in advance (usually about 1 week). Quizzes are usually announced two class periods in advance. If you are absent tests and quizzes should be made up within a week of an absence by making arrangements with me.

- **Reassessments - Retakes should not be seen as a regular course of action.** However, in the event that you do not perform as well as you hoped on an assessment, you will be provided the opportunity at the end of each quarter to retake each assessment for which you have completed the retake requirements. This information is provided on a separate page.

- **Labs, Activities, and Projects** (60%) - You are expected to come to class ready for a lab when they are announced. **Proper attire** is important for safety. If you are not wearing the proper attire and you are unable to participate in the lab, you are still expected to complete the analysis
and conclusion questions. All written work must be your own, unless otherwise instructed, even when you are working with a partner.

- **Homework (10%)** - Readings will be assigned as enrichment to each unit. Their will be a reading quiz for each associated assignment. Students may attempt a reading quiz up to three times and the highest score will be recorded in the gradebook.

**Late Work**
To receive full feedback and benefits students must turn work in on time. Late work is not accepted unless completed by the announced day at the end of each quarter (approximately one week before the end of the quarter). For most assignments, students will be provided class time prior to the due date to work on the assignment. Class time will not be provided for late work completion.

**Technology**
Students are expected to have a tablet with a keyboard, personal laptop, or school-issued laptop on a daily basis. Students who are using a school device should pick the device up PRIOR to the start of school. Phones, ipods/MP3 players, and other personal electronic devices may only be used with the teacher’s explicit permission.

**Academic Honesty**
Working together in biology is encouraged. “Working together” means two or more students doing or studying the same material at the same time. Students may discuss the questions and possible answers. Every member of the group must understand the answers and write down the answers in their own words, even though the group may have formulated the answers together. For more information about academic honesty, please refer to the student agenda.

**General Information**
- We will be using Google Classroom this year for class. You will be provided with a class code, and you will be expected to join the class during the first week of school. This will be a place where class events and due dates will be posted, as well as notes and assignments that are available electronically. This website is also a great way to connect with classmates, so we encourage you to use it!
- **You need to be in your seat and ready to learn when the bell rings.**
- Topics covered throughout the year will include: scientific investigation, biochemistry, cells, photosynthesis and respiration, DNA and RNA protein synthesis, biotechnology, heredity, evolution, classification, ecology, and much more!