

2025-26 Biology 1 Honors Syllabus **Archimedean Upper Conservatory**

Instructor: Mrs. Caban-Klepacova
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Course Reference Text: Pearson – Biology: Concepts and Connections, 9th Edition, Campbell, Taylor, Simon, Dickey, Hogan, and Reece

Course Number: 2000310

Course Description: Major Concepts/Content - Biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. At the end of the course, the test (EOC) will be administered in May, which covers objectives for both semesters. This is a one (1) credit High School course designed to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills that will enable them to apply scientific skills and processes on major biological science concepts. By the end of this course, the students should be able to identify and explain characteristics of living things, basics of genetics and cell theories, natural phenomena and their interrelationships with other sciences, technology and social issues, ecology and environmental challenges of 21st century as they relate to the study of living things and the species taxonomy.

The two science goals covered in biology are as follows:

Science Goal 1: Skills and Processes – The student will demonstrate ways of thinking and acting inherent to the practice of science. The student will use the language and instruments of science to collect, organize, interpret, calculate and communicate information. Students will develop higher level of thinking by inferring, deducting and inductive thinking methods.

Science Goal 2: Concepts of Biology – The student will use scientific skills and processes to explain the dynamic nature of living things, their structure and functions, their interactions and the results from these interactions that occur over time. Students will clearly understand the biological hierarchy of the living things and their important role in the environmental concept.

Course Objectives: The course objectives are correlated with the Florida Standards (NGSSS) and expectations of Common Core.

Projects:

Will include but not be limited to the Fairchild Challenge and projects pertaining objectives of the covered material. The timeline and requirements for projects must be strictly adhered to.

Grading Policy: All grades will be based on a percentage system. Forty percent (40%) will be earned on major tests, thirty percent (30%) on quizzes, projects and labs, twenty percent (20%) on class work, participation and class work evaluations, and ten percent (10%) on homework.

Students will obtain these grades on average per one quarter:

- Unit Test (every 2/weeks) = 2 to 3 grades
- Pop Quizzes (unannounced) = 2 to 3 grades
- Projects/Assignments/Worksheets/Homework = 5 to 10 grades (minimum 2/week)
- Final Exam
- Grading Scale: according to Student Handbook

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. As per *MDCPS Code of Student Conduct*, Academic Dishonesty is a minimum Level II Violation and is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:

- Cheating – the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids
- Fabrication – falsification or invention of any information
- Assisting – helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty
- Tampering – altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents
- Plagiarism – representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own
- As a condition of taking this course, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

Tests/Quizzes/Classroom Evaluation:

- **Test/quizzes** - Generally once per week or at the end of a chapter or section of study.
- **Classroom Evaluation** - Throughout the quarter students will be evaluated for class participation and involvement. Examples of activities that will be taken to consideration: discussion participation, oral/written response, brings required materials and supplies to class, laboratories, and projects.

Teacher/Student/Parent Communication:

- Teacher – Student communication is done via email or in person in class
- Teacher – Parent communication is done via school email: jana.caban@archimedrean.org
- To schedule parent-teacher conference please email the request to the above-mentioned school email

Homework

- HW posts can be found in multiple places – Archie, Archie Resources, student email, textbook, and/or a physical handout
- Notes and lectures should be reviewed, re-written nightly (15-30 min)
- Complete the assigned projects, lab reports adhere to due dates
- Study for exams
- Review the lecture slides before every new chapter
- Watch all assigned videos, and/or short movies

Make up: In keeping with the school's guidelines as well as M-DCPS guidelines,

- Students with ***unexcused absences will not*** be provided with make-up work, **unless decided otherwise by a teacher.**

- Students with **excused absences** will have one day for each excused absence to make up the work. This includes daily grades and tests.
- If a student is **absent, it is his/her responsibility** to obtain any assignments missed while absent. Students are expected to consult missed assignments with their classmates first in order to complete the work that they are missing.
- **Late work, past five (5) days, is not accepted. Once homework is late an increment of ten (10) points is deducted from the grade, after the homework is graded for the correctness.**
- **Missed exams must be taken within the time allowed no longer than five (5) days. Prior arrangement is required.**
- If you are absent during a lab, you must get an alternative assignment.

Student Support:

- Every Wednesday between 7:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. I will be available to provide academic support if extra help/explanation is needed. Students are responsible for a prior arrangement a day ahead in person.
- To complete the course, students are expected to pass the **Biology EOC Exam**. In order to successfully complete the course, review sessions will be provided after school on a regular weekly basis starting January 2026.

Course Expectations

Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to begin the class before the bell rings. Please familiarize yourself with the school's policies and procedures stated in the Curriculum Bulletin / Parent & Student Handbook as these same rules apply to the classroom. Students are expected to have required course materials for each class, no exceptions.

The student is responsible for the following:

- Completing all homework assignments
- Turn in all work assigned by the due date (there will be NO late work accepted)
- Ask for assistance when needed from parent and/or instructor
- Studying the content of information for about an hour or two per day

Consequences for not Meeting Classroom Expectations

- 1st Consequence – Verbal warning
- 2nd Consequence – Parent contact (phone call or e-mail)
- 3rd Consequence – Referral to the administration

Depending on the severity of the classroom disruption or behavior, the teacher may bypass the order of consequences listed above.

Requirements for class:

- Textbook hardcopy/online e-textbook
- 3-ring binder with dividers for handouts, lab reports and notes
- Lined paper, pencils, blue/black ink pens
- Composition book and/or other notetaking notebook

Classroom Rules: Students are expected to follow the guidelines of Student-Parent Handbook/Code of Conduct at all times.

- Show respect for yourself, others, and their property
- No drinking or eating in the lab/classroom
- Students are expected to be in their assigned seats with all the required supplies before the bell rings.
- Students are expected to begin work as soon as the bell rings and follow the instructions in order to complete the assignments on time.
- Students are expected to raise their hand and wait for their name to be called out in order to answer the question or ask to leave the seat.
- Students are expected to place their TURNED OFF cell phones into the ASSIGNED phone pockets located by the classroom door. Not following the requirement will result in confiscating the cell phone.

Calendar of quarterly pacing guide: Please refer to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Pacing Guide.

Notes:

Success comes when a student consistently completes assignments in a timely manner, stays on task, and studies assigned materials to read, watch, and memorize. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and critical thinking.

*****This syllabus may be subject to change throughout the semester*****

PRINT, SIGN and UPLOAD to ARCHIE ONLY this page (bring hard copy to class) – Homework Grade, Due Friday 8/15

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CONTACT INFORMATION

Mother/Guardian Name:	Phone Number:	Email address:
Father/Guardian Name:	Phone Number:	Email address:
Student Information	N/A	Email address:

My child and I have read and understand the course expectations for Mrs. Caban-Klepacova’s Biology Honors course for 2025-26 at Archimedean Upper Conservatory. I have her contact information and will contact her with any questions or concerns that I may have.

PRINT Name of Student: _____

Signature of Student:

PRINT Name of Parent/Guardian:

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Please fill out the contact information below as neatly as possible so Mrs. Caban-Klepacova can contact you!