**Course Description:**

Biology is a basic introduction to the study of life on Earth and living systems. Students will progress through this course with the following 12 units of study:

Semester 1 – Units 1-6

* Nature of Science
* Biochemistry
* Cell Structure and Function
* Photosynthesis and Respiration
* DNA, RNA, Protein Synthesis
* Cell Cycle

Semester 2 – Units 7-12

* Mendelian Genetics/Heredity
* Evolution
* Ecology
* Population Growth
* Classification
* End of Course Exam

**Materials:**

1 Composition Book Pencils/Pens

1 ½ inch binder or folder Box of Tissues

$5 Biology Fee, if possible Highlighters

**Grading Policy:**

20% First Semester Final and End of Course Assessment

40% Summative Assessments – Unit Tests, Papers, Projects

40% Formative Assessments – Laboratory Activities, Classroom Activities, Homework

Summative Assessments - Tests will not be curved. If you have an excused absence on test day you will be required to take an after-school make-up test which will be different from the regular test. Tests will be announced in advance, if you are absent only the day prior to the test you will be required to take the test as scheduled. No late papers or projects will be accepted unless an excused absence is presented.

Formative Assessment - No late papers will be accepted unless an excused absence is presented. You will be graded on your participation in labs along with lab reports. Notes are mandatory and will be checked. Any in-class assignments not completed in class should be completed as homework.

**Student Conduct and Discipline:**

Both students and teacher will abide by the Fayette County Public School polices and the Henry Clay High School school-wide expectations. Students are expected to read and familiarize themselves with these polices and expectations.

**Rules**:

1. **Mind your manners.**
2. **Follow class procedures.**
3. **Try your best every day.**

**Procedures:**

* **On task -** Perform at your personal best with a focus on learning.
* **Entering the classroom -** Enter quietly and proceed to your assigned seat. Prepare any materials for class before the bell rings (composition book out, sharpen pencils, bell ringer, etc.)
* **Bell ringer -** An opening question or prompt will be projected on the board as you enter. Copy the question as instructed and complete your response.
* **Turning in assignments –** Write your name (First and last), date, and period on all classroom assignments.
* **Make-up work** **–** Find your missing assignment through the webpage, a trusted peer, or the teacher and retrieve needed materials after instruction. Make-up work is only accepted for excused absences.
* **Hall pass –** Raise hand to request a hall pass. No hall passes will be given in the first or last 10 minutes of class. 10 hall passes/semester.
* **Attention -** Stop what you are doing and silently look at the teacher.
* **Getting out of your seat –** Silently raise your hand to request to leave your seat. Do not sit on the tables.
* **End of class -** Remain in your seat until dismissed by the teacher to ensure that all materials are cleaned up and the lesson is concluded. Exit the class quietly and calmly.
* **Tidiness –** Straighten your desk and push in your chair once you are dismissed. Make sure that no litter is on the floor.
* **Lab activities -** Follow all lab instructions, safety guidelines, and stay in your group in the assigned area. Carefully clean and return all lab supplies.
* **Personal requests –** Wait until after the instructor has addressed the class for any personal request. Any personal request made while the teacher is addressing the class will be automatically denied.
* **Electronics –** My goal is for students to be engaged and participate in class to enhance their learning experience. In order to promote participation and engagement in classroom activities, electronic use is prohibited without permission from the teacher. An electronic “prison” is provided in the classroom for students easily distracted. A student with an electronic device out and/or in use will have their device placed in the prison for the classroom period. Any refusal to comply will be considered defiance and an administrator will be called to retrieve the electronic device and a discipline referral will be written.
* **Plagiarism** in any form will not be tolerated and both parties will be given a zero for the assignment. This includes, and is not limited to, copying classroom and homework assignments. The intention for assignments is not to be “busy” work but to reinforce their study of the topic.
* **Food and Drink –** Because this is a science classroom, food and drink are prohibited. Only bottled water is allowed.

Changes to this syllabus are not anticipated. However, the teacher reserves the right to make alterations to this document while keeping parents and students informed.

Dear Parents, Caretakers, and Families,

Welcome to the 2017 - 2018 school year at Henry Clay. My name is Cheri Higdon and I am your child’s Biology teacher. I look forward to helping your child as the year progresses in every way that I can. My planning period is 3rd hour 10:35am -11:35am. Please call or email me with any questions or concerns you have.

Please contact me with any concerns that may come up. I can be reached by phone, email, or in person. If schedule conflicts or transportation are a barrier, we can make an arrangement to ensure that your child gets what he or she needs. I hope to meet with each of you, and I value any input or thoughts that you have. On occasion, I will email parents and caretakers with information on projects, tests, assignments, and class news; please include an email address. Also, my webpage is a great way to keep up with what is happening in the classroom. Please read the syllabus that has been sent home today and contact me with any questions. Your child has been asked to return this letter and the science safety contract (on reverse side) with your signature and to place this syllabus in his or her binder; this will be your child’s first grade in the grade book. If there is a preferred method of contact, use the space below to let me know.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your child! This year is going to be a great year for all of us!

Sincerely,

Cheri Higdon

**My signature below indicates that I have received and reviewed Ms. Higdon’s 2017-2018 Biology Syllabus. I will do my very best to abide by the policies in Ms. Higdon’s classroom.**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My child has access to internet at home: Yes No

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS: PLEASE SIGN THE SAFETY CONTRACT ON BACK!**