

General Biology 2026-2027

Class Information

Teacher: Catherine (CJ) Watson

Phone: 324-4691 ext. 313

Room: 313

Email: cathy.watson@lexschools.org

Office Hours: 7:30 AM - 3:45 PM (or by appointment)

Class Overview

This course studies the interactions of living things and the environment surrounding them. General topics include: scientific method, evolution, classification, cell biology, genetics, ecology, and the survey of organisms within the six kingdoms. The course is enhanced with laboratory experiences, group activities, and projects. Emphasis is on cooperative learning and problem solving. Students will be able to present projects through computer-aided programs.

Class Requirements

iPad

Writing Utensil

Grading - Grades will be based on the Lexington High School grade scale.

Final grade breakdown per quarter:

Assessments 60%

Classwork 40%

Semester #1 = Q1 =45%; Q2 =45%; Final =10%

Semester #2 = Q3 =45%; Q4 =45%; Final =10%

Plagiarism/Cheating

-Any student found plagiarizing work or cheating (including using AI) will get a zero for that assignment.

Classroom Expectations

-Be responsible

-Be respectful

-Be safe

Electronics

I do not expect to see a cell phone being used by a student. If that should happen, the cell phone violation policy will be followed per the Student Handbook. Refer to page 7 in the Student Handbook for further details.

Airpods and other electronic devices are allowed only with a teacher's permission. If they would be used without explicit permission, the airpod/headphone policy will be followed per the Student Handbook. Refer to page 7 in the Student Handbook for further details.

Behavior

There should be no destruction of the teacher's personal property or any school property. This includes damaging, destroying OR being wasteful of classroom and laboratory materials. If this should take place during a lab or activity, the student will not be allowed to participate in projects or labs.

If any student is disrupting the learning environment for other students, they will have consequences. First time is a warning, second time is a detention as well as a parent/guardian contact via Talking Points. Continual disruptions will result in further disciplinary action and a referral to administration.

Students are expected to use the restroom/fill water bottles during passing periods. If an emergent situation arises and a bathroom pass is granted to the student, he/she will make up the time spent in the restroom after school.

No bathroom passes will be given at all unless the student's cell phone is left in the classroom while they are in the restroom.

Absent/Late Work

Students will be held accountable for all missed assignments, notes etc. for any absence. It is the students responsibility to contact the teacher for missed notes, homework, quizzes and/or tests.

Assignments that are to be completed due to an absence are to be done in a reasonable amount of time that is agreed upon by both the student and the teacher. If it is not complete by the agreed upon due date, it will be considered late and will be graded as such.

For general classwork assignments that are turned in past the due date assigned by the teacher, they will still be accepted until 1 week prior to the end of the current quarter for 50% credit. Your teacher will not be responsible for finding prior assignments or reprinting assignments from earlier in the quarter.

If a student misses a lab, they need to read three articles from sciencenews.org or Science World magazines and write a five-sentence summary of each article. Articles are available in the classroom or online.

Tardies

Students will be considered tardy if they are not in the classroom when the bell rings. The first tardy is a warning, the second tardy will result in a 30 minute detention and etc. per the Student Handbook policy. Please refer to page 19 of the Student Handbook for the complete tardy policy.

By signing this paper, the student agrees to be held accountable for all of the expectations and rules in this syllabus for Mrs. Watson's class. Violations of rules will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

Student (print):_____

Student (signature):_____