

**Class Policies and Expectations**  
**General Biology- Mrs. Halvorsen**

**Semester:**  
**Block #:**

Welcome! The following is an overview of how to succeed in my class. I like to keep things pretty straightforward, so please see me if you have any questions regarding my expectations or your responsibilities.

**Materials needed**

As a student in this class, you are expected to bring the following materials to class EVERY DAY. There are no exceptions.

- Bring:** Pencil or pen (having both is preferred)
- 3 ring binder with at least 1" width
- Lined loose-leaf paper **or** a spiral notebook
- Current assignments
- Journal (if applicable)

**Binders/ Files**

Your binder serves two purposes: a collection of notes taken in class, and a storage facility for assignments. I expect your binder or file to contain the following materials:

- Notes
- Graded Work
- Handouts

**Make-up Work** (this does not include late work)

You are responsible for completing all assignments in this class, even when you are absent. I will NOT approach you with work after an absence; you need to approach me for your work. If you are absent with a legitimate excuse, you have one week to complete a missed assignment.

If you do not receive a missed assignment after an absence, it is your responsibility, not mine. I do not accept stockpiles of missed work at the end of the semester.

**Tardiness**

I follow the MAUHS policy for tardiness (see student handbook). If you are not in class and seated when the bell rings, you are tardy. Tardiness will take points away from your weekly participation grade for this class. Every 3 tardies results in a teacher detention.

**Food**

I only allow some food into class for one big reason: it's messy! If you have food with you when you show up for class, you may finish the food in class as quickly as possible. I ABSOLUTELY do NOT allow trips to the cafeteria or school store. If you take a hall pass and return with food, that food will be thrown out.

## Grading

Your final grade is based on a weighted scale. Some assignments are worth more than others. Individual assignments are point-dependent, meaning assignments that are given a higher point value are worth more overall. Point values range from 10 to 300 points. The categories are as follows:

Handouts/ in-class assignments	30%
Labs (informal and formal)	30%
Quizzes, Tests, “Quests”	20%
Class Participation	20%

There is a final exam for this course that is worth 20% of the final grade for the course.

## Homework

Homework in this class will average around one night per week, but there are usually ongoing class projects (nature journal, etc.) that may require work at home as well. The vast majority of work in this course is done in class.

## Behavior

These are what I call my “expectations”. I don’t call them “rules” because I believe they reflect how any respectful individual would act inside and outside the classroom. I have nothing against wanting to have fun in the classroom, but as soon as behavior becomes inappropriate for the learning environment I will take action. I do not hesitate to write referrals for anyone disrespecting my expectations.

In this class, each student is expected to:

1. Respect classmates, the teacher, and oneself (no derogatory remarks or putdowns)
2. Avoid possible harm to oneself and others
3. Use appropriate language
4. Be responsible for one’s own work
5. Keep the classroom clean and free of garbage
6. Encourage positive communication and teamwork
7. Participate!

Thank you for complying with my class policies and expectations. Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read them, and ask your parent or guardian to do so as well.

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

Parent/ Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My email: [whalvorsen@svsu.org](mailto:whalvorsen@svsu.org)