

# *Welcome to the world of Biology!*

Hello there! This is Mrs. Fromholz-Smith and I will be your biology teacher for this semester! I am looking forward to sharing the wonders of the study of life with you! By the time we have finished this semester, I expect you to have learned about an aspect of biology that resonates with *you!* We will be covering topics ranging from vast ecosystems and diversity in organisms to the teeny tiny cells that to work on a microscopic level!

Each day, I will be available immediately following school hours, unless otherwise announced. After hours, I can be contacted through the methods I have listed above. Over the next few weeks, we will diving into a world of discovery. We will partake in this adventure together to soak in the wonders of life!

## **Contact Information**

Mrs. Jessica Fromholz-Smith

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## **Classroom Policies**

### *General expectations*

In our classroom, I have developed a short list of expectations for general classroom behavior. As we begin the semester, you and your classmates will develop your own short list of expectations for classroom behavior that will be added to the ones I have below.

1. Be respectful. This applies to your classmates, school property, and educators, including myself, in the building.
2. Come to class prepared to learn with all of the supplies you need.
3. Avoid disrupting learning for your peers.
4. Follow the safety expectations.

If a student does not follow one of the classroom expectations, the consequences will be given in the following order:

1. Verbal warning
2. Written warning with signatures
3. Lunch detention in my classroom
4. Phone call to home
5. Meeting with parent/guardian
6. Referral to the office

### *Attendance*

Attendance will be taken each day and submitted to the office. Students will be counted tardy if they are not in the door when the bell rings. Once a student has been tardy 5 times within the nine weeks, that student will be referred to the office.

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## *Academic integrity*

### I. Cheating

- a. For the first instance of cheating, the student will have 50% of the points deducted from the assignment or test.
- b. For any additional cheating, the student's parent or guardian will be contacted for a meeting to discuss the repercussions of the repeated behavior. One potential solution would be redoing the assignment or test in a different format and changing the seating arrangements so that the student can no longer cheat off of their classmates.

### II. Plagiarism

- a. Plagiarism will be defined as not citing an outside source in an assignment. Students will be given a brief lesson over how to avoid plagiarizing towards the beginning of this class.
  - i. For the first instance, the student will be warned that they have plagiarized and I will explain how they did.
  - ii. For repeated instances, the student will be asked to redo the assignment and correct the plagiarism. If the student decides not to redo the assignment, 50% of the points will be deducted from the assignment.

## **Grading Policies**

### *Grading scale and distribution*

Grade	Percentage
A	93.0-100
A-	89.0-92.9
B+	86.0-88.9
B	82.0-85.9
B-	79.0-81.9
C+	75.0-78.9
C	
C-	
D+	
D	
D-	

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F	
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## *Makeup work policy*

If a student has missed class, the makeup work will be available at the makeup work station in the classroom. Students will be expected to obtain that work themselves. For every one day missed, the student will get one day to makeup the work.\*

\*Under circumstances such as a death in the family or an extended time of illness, the student will be given more time to makeup work as the instructor sees fit.

## *Late work policy*

If an assignment is turned in late, 1% of the total grade will be deducted per day it is late. No late assignments will be taken after the nine weeks is complete. If a student needs additional time to complete an assignment, they need to inform the instructor so that alternative arrangements may be made.

## *General rubric for projects?*

## **Science Lab Safety**

We will be working in a laboratory setting for many of our topics this semester. Below are the expectations to keep everyone safe while we are making discoveries!

- ❖ Safety goggles must be worn at ALL times when in the lab!
- ❖ Gloves must be worn when working in the lab.
- ❖ No food or drink in the lab!
- ❖ Anything that is used or created in lab is NOT to be eaten.
- ❖ We will be working with various chemicals; these chemicals are not to be near anyone's face, eyes, or mouth.
- ❖ Any chemicals worked with in lab will be disposed of in designated containers, NOT the sink.
- ❖ If using an open flame in an experiment, nothing is to be placed into the flame unless you are instructed to do so by the instructor.
- ❖ The safety equipment including a safety shower, eye wash, and fire extinguisher will be located by each student before working in the lab.
- ❖ If there is a spill of any kind, the student will immediately notify the instructor so that it can be properly cleaned up.
- ❖ Students will practice the ethical treatment of any organisms used in lab, living or deceased.
- ❖ Students with longer than shoulder length hair must have it tied back when in the lab.

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- ❖ A lab apron and close-toed shoes must be worn in the lab.
- ❖ Anything that is used or created in the lab cannot be taken outside of the lab room unless the instructor states otherwise (i.e. specimens, chemicals, etc.).

Dear parents/guardians and students:

I am really looking forward to working with you and your child this year. We will be enjoying lots of interesting topics including how animal live and interact, how life cycles and systems affect our planet, and so much more! In order to make sure our classroom is a safe and fun space, it is important to have a good set of expectations for the class and the lab setting. Guardians and students, please be sure that you have read the expectations and understand their importance for a safe, fun space for learning this year.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the safety expectations for participation in laboratory activities in Mrs. Fromholz-Smith's classroom.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the safety expectations for participation in laboratory activities in Mrs. Fromholz-Smith's classroom.

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any allergies that your child has:

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I, Mrs. Jessica Fromholz-Smith, understand that \_\_\_\_\_ has the above listed allergies and will adjust laboratory plans as needed.

Teacher signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_