



### **Class Description**

This year we will study how living organisms are organized, how they work, and how they interact. We will also learn about the work scientists have done to explore our living world and the impact their discoveries have had on our society. My goals for this course are to:



- 1) Give you opportunities to practice science as a method of discovery,
- 2) Teach you about important biological concepts that explain how all living things work,
- 3) Prepare you to excel in future science courses such as AP Biology, and
- 4) Prepare you to excel on your Virginia Biology End of Course SOL Exam.

In order to accomplish these goals, expect our classes and activities to be active, challenging, and relevant.

### **Keys to Success**

- Be present.
- Participate and ask questions.
- Complete all assignments.



- Stay organized.
- Use the class website  
([majorwester.weebly.com/biology](http://majorwester.weebly.com/biology))

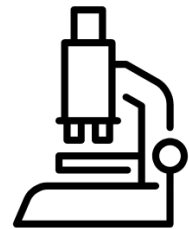
### **Class Rules**

In order for us to work well and have a good time this year, I will need a few things from each of you:

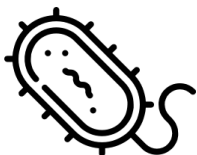
- 1) Come to class on time and ready to work every day.
- 2) Be kind and respectful.
- 3) Be honest.
- 4) Pay attention and follow directions.

### **Class Norms**

- **Entry:** Come in quietly, take your seat, and get to work immediately.
- **The 20-20 Rule:** Stay in the room for the first and last 20 min. of class.
- **Eating:** Because we are in a lab room, you cannot eat or drink anything in class.
- **Cell Phones:** Not without explicit permission.
- **Binders:** Keep in the room except when needed at home.



### **Required Materials**



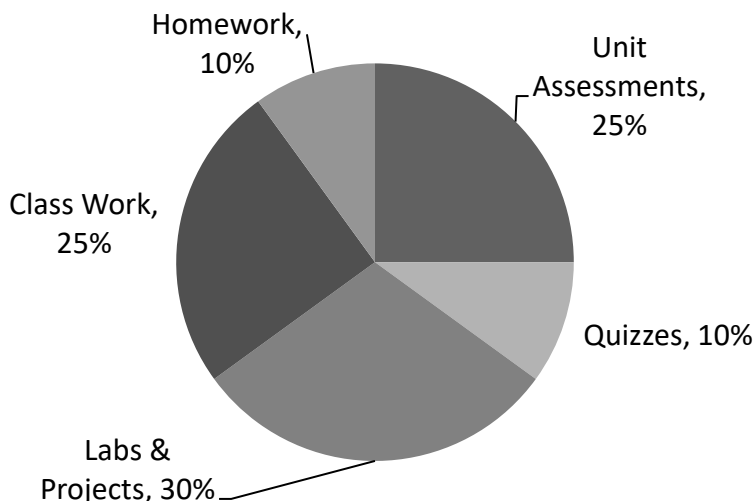
- 1" three-ring binder
- At least 4 dividers
- Pens and/or pencils
- Pocket folder

### **Grading**

- Class work (20 points), labs (50 points), and projects (50 points), to be completed mostly in class, daily
- Quizzes (25 points) and tests (120 points) (about one assessment per week)
- Homework (10 points), assigned daily



## Percentage of Grade (Approximation)



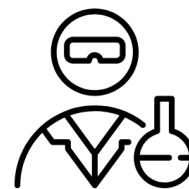
For each nine weeks, a final score will be determined following the 10-point RPS grading scale:

Score	Grade
100 – 90	A (Wow)
89 – 80	B (Above expectations)
79 – 70	C (Meets expectations)
69 – 60	D (Approaching expectations)
59 – 0	F (Far below expectations)

For every 9-week marking period, your grade will equal the percentage of your total points earned / total points possible (for example,  $1240 / 1400 = 88.6\% = B$ ).

### Semester and Final Grades:

- Each semester grade will be the average of two 9-week grades (weighted 2x) and a semester exam grade (weighted 1x).
- We will have a 1<sup>st</sup> semester exam and a final exam.



**Aspen:** Grades for all assignments will be posted on Aspen within about one week after the due date. You should check Aspen regularly to view updated grades.

### Absences and Late-Work

- If you turn in an assignment after the due date, you need to discuss this with us. The grade is subject to a 50% deduction, especially if you turn it in after the unit test.
- If you miss an assignment in class because of an excused absence (including school activities), you must meet with us and make up the work within 1 week.
- Any work due on the day a student was absent is due the class block they return.
- Be aware of the new 18-absence RPS attendance policy.
- Multiple missing assignments may result in consequences such as afterschool detention and Saturday school to ensure that make up work is completed.



### Remediation and Retesting

You will complete corrections for any test on which you score below 70%.

### Honors Students

In order to fulfill the requirements for honors biology (which entitles you to a +1.0 GPA point), you will be asked to complete an extra project-based learning assignment every semester. Details will be forthcoming.

Teachers: Captain Tucker and Major Wester

emails: [tuckerr3@mymail.vcu.edu](mailto:tuckerr3@mymail.vcu.edu)

[mwester@rvaschools.net](mailto:mwester@rvaschools.net)

website: [majorwester.weebly.com](http://majorwester.weebly.com)

phone: (804) 380-5272

After you have read the 2019-2020 FMA Biology Syllabus, shared it with your parents/guardians, and asked your teachers any questions or concerns you may have, please complete and sign the form below:

*By signing below, I am indicating that I understand the expectations for Major Wester's and Captain Tucker's Biology Class during the 2019-2020 school year. I agree that I understand the grading system, rules, procedures, and expectations of the classroom and the course.*

Student's Name **(print)** \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name **(print)** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Additionally, parents/guardians, please complete the following information (front and back) so I may learn a little more about your child and contact you in the future.*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions about what we're learning in class, you can always contact us or go to our class website ([majorwester.weebly.com](http://majorwester.weebly.com)) to see notes, assignments, videos, and important dates. I also use Remind.com to keep you updated on what is going on in biology, so be on the lookout for messages from me through this messaging service.

*Questionnaire on back (Optional, but I'd appreciate any information you're willing to share.)*

## Biology Parent Questionnaire

What does your child enjoy or excel at in school? (e.g. subjects, types of activities, etc.)

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What does your child dislike or struggle with in school?

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What have previous teachers done for your child to help them succeed in school?

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Specifically, what can I be doing to help your child succeed in biology this year?

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What does your child want to do after high school graduation?

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Anything you'd like me to know about your student (strengths, needs, allergies or other health issues, etc.)?

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***Please return this sheet to me the next class block.***

***I look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night at Franklin Military Academy  
on September 26 at 5:30pm!***