

# General Biology 2023-2024

## Class Information

Teacher: Catherine (CJ) Watson

Phone: 324-4691 ext. 313

Room: 313

Email: [cathy.watson@lexschools.org](mailto: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

Folder

Writing Utensil

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

Final grade breakdown per quarter:

Assessments 40%

Classwork 25%

Labs/Projects 35%

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 will get a zero for that assignment. -Just don't do it.

## Classroom Expectations

-Be responsible

-Be respectful

-Be safe

## Specifically:

-There is a zero tolerance policy for air pods of any sort. If I see students with air pods, they will be mine for the rest of the day and a detention will be served by the student within 24 hours per LHS policy. Students will also be put into the air pod violation form.

-There is a zero tolerance policy for cell phones. If I see students with their cell phones out, it will be mine for the rest of the day and a detention will be served by the student within 24 hours per LHS policy. The student will also be put on the cell phone violation form.

-There will be no trash of any sort placed in my plants. They are here for my enjoyment and yours. If anyone puts trash in my plants, they will serve a detention.

-There will be no destruction of my personal property or school property. If students purposefully break or damage anything of either mine or the school, they will be serving a detention.

-There will be no abuse of the animals in my classroom. Including my bearded dragon AND the live organisms we may use for labs. If a student chooses to abuse an animal, they will not be participating in any more projects.

-If a student takes advantage of a laboratory or project experience and chooses to damage, destroy or be wasteful of classroom materials, they will not be allowed to participate in projects or labs. If a student finds themselves in this situation, they will be segregated from the other students and will be reading Science World articles and writing summaries.

-There will be NO youtube/netflix/games on your ipads in my classroom. If a student is using their ipad inappropriately, it will be mine for the rest of the day.

-Choose to not curse.

-Choose to be respectful to myself and your classmates. If a student chooses to not be respectful, they are choosing detention.

-If any student is a distraction for other students learning, they will be given alternate assignments, segregated from the rest of the class.

-Clean up after yourselves.

*You are free to make your own choices, but that means you are also choosing your own consequences.*

**Absent policy**

-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.

-Students will be considered tardy if they are not in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings. The first tardy is a warning, the second tardy will result in a 30 minute detention.

-If a student misses a day of school it is their responsibility to meet with the teacher to make-up for the work they missed.

-I do not assign homework to be done outside of class time. I give plenty of time in class for all assignments to be completed. If a student chooses to not take advantage of my class time I will accept late work, but at a 50% maximum score.

-Late work will be accepted until one week prior to the end of the current 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.

Detentions - Detentions will be given for continually disruptive and/or disrespectful behavior and are to be served within 24 hours.

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):\_\_\_\_\_

Parent (print):\_\_\_\_\_

Parent (signature):\_\_\_\_\_