**Dear Biologists and Parents/Guardians,**

Welcome to Biology!! This class will be exciting, thought-provoking, and will challenge you to think scientifically to understand life on Earth. Biology is a required science class for graduation in NC.

I am incredibly excited to have each of you in my class. I am counting on each of you to bring perseverance and a willingness to learn as we embark on our biology journey this semester. This class has a TON of interesting content. Have you wondered what makes a cell “cancerous”, or how bacteria infect people to make them ill, or how forensic investigators can identify suspects based on a single drop of blood? These are all topics we will learn in biology this semester.

Armed with the most exciting subject in science (my own bias), we will focus on problem-solving skills, critical thinking, applying the scientific method, and the application of biology to real world issues.

**Materials:**

·         A **3-ring binder** preferably 2 inch or larger (you will need a separate binder for biology) and **Dividers**
·         Loose leaf paper
·         Pencils and pens (blue or black ink)

**Class Materials Wish-List**

This list is our class wish-list. These are items we are in need of in the classroom, and I would be so grateful for parent help in providing these items for our biology students! You may also wish to carry some of these items with you.

·         Glue sticks (**very** needed!)
·         Highlighters (any color)
·         Tissues!
·         Washable markers

* Lysol disinfectant wipes

**Classroom Procedures**

Students require a safe and inviting place to learn. I will always provide this for my students, and I need help from each student to ensure that our biology classroom is a conducive place to learn.

1.       **Always be prepared.** This means students are expected to be prompt to class, must have the required materials, and must be ready to learn when the bell rings (in a seat and attentive).

2.       **Do your best.** This is all that I can ask from any student and budding biologist. As long as you are doing all that you can to succeed, and you are seeking help to improve, you are doing an excellent job in my book.

3.       **Please do not bring any food or cell phones out of your bag in my classroom.** Phones should not be used in class unless otherwise directed (for research) by the teacher, and should not be heard.  Food can be dangerous in a science laboratory, and will not be eaten unless it is part of a lab. Drinks are allowed as long as they have a top and are not out during a lab.

4.       **Respect yourself, respect your classmates, and your teachers.** I promise to always provide an atmosphere of respect and understanding. This classroom is a HATE FREE ZONE. Do right by each other and do right by your teacher.

**Students will be expected to adhere to all Riverside High School rules while in our science classroom.**

**Textbook**

Biologyby Miller and Levine. This text is aligned with the NC Standard Course of Study. We have a class set of books, so students will not be carrying these books home.

**Grades and Progress Reports**

The new DPS grading scale as of 2015-2016 is a ten-point scale. Our class grades will follow this scale, where 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, and so on.

In Biology, assignments will have the following weights:
* **Tests and Quizzes: 30%**
* **Classwork,Labs, Projects: 35%**
* **Class Participation: 20%**
* **Homework: 15%**

**Quarter 1 Grade (40% of grade) + Quarter 2 Grade (40% of grade) + Final Exam (EOC Grade 20%)= Total Grade**
Students and Parents/Guardians can check grades on **PowerSchool**. Please ensure that both student and parent/guardian have access to his or her PowerSchool account!

 Grades will be updated electronically on a regular basis, and printed progress reports will go home every five weeks.
**Tutoring**

Biology tutoring occurs on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Late buses for tutoring are provided from Riverside on these days and take students to their homes after tutoring.

**Absences**
It is imperative to be present in class **every day** in order to be successful. **I cannot stress the importance of great attendance enough** in a challenging content-driven course such as Biology. If you must miss class for an excused absence such as an appointment, family emergency, illness, etc., you will be responsible for obtaining your absent work when you return (I will always provide it to you), and you will have 5 school days to turn in work or make up a missed quiz/test before that assignment is considered late. Late work receives a 5% reduction each day.

Students who have an unexcused absence will have 24 hours to make up missed quizzes or tests, as per DPS policy.

**Contact: Ms. Holly A. Byers, MAT Email: holly.byers@dpsnc.net**

**Phone: 919-560-3965 ext. 65223 Class Website: byersscience.weebly.com**

**By signing below, each person is acknowledging that they have read the above information and understand their role.**

**\_Holly A. Byers\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_8/29/16\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Teacher Name Signature Date**

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**Student Name Signature Date**

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**Parent/Guardian Name Signature Date**