

**BIOLOGY**  
Ms. Cordes  
Syllabus 2019-20



**Contact information**

Email: [cordesr@sd5.k12.mt.us](mailto:cordesr@sd5.k12.mt.us) (This is the EASIEST way to reach me)

Web page: [www.mscordes.com](http://www.mscordes.com)

Voice Mail: 751-3589

Classroom: Room 223

Grades: <http://powerschool.sd5.k12.mt.us>

If you ever have questions or need extra help on assignments outside of class, I am available before and after school every day.

Biology explores the diverse world of living organisms. The emphases of this class are the six major biological concepts: Homeostasis, Matter and Energy in Living Systems, Reproduction and Inheritance, Biodiversity, and Ecology, and Evolution.

Through *Biology* (published by Holt McDougal, 2010), students will discover connections between biology and their lives. This course will be taught using an inquiry approach in which students will become involved in the scientific process and ultimately plan and carry out original scientific research.

Biology will also incorporate the history of science, the place of ethics and ethical analysis, decision making in today's controversial science world; and the importance of human technology as a way of adapting.

**HONOR YOURSELF**

- Be prepared by bringing required materials to class
- Be productive by actively listening, asking questions, following instructions, and using your class time to work
- Be honest
- Be a dreamer by connecting what you are learning to yourself and your life goals- think BIG! Do your best.

**HONOR COMMUNITY**

- Be on time to class
- Be a leader by beginning to work quietly or reminding those around you to stay on task
- Be polite by not distracting others
- Be respectful of the opinions of others, even if they differ from your own

**HONOR THE MOMENT**

- Be fully present by putting your phone and music away
- Be excited about learning- WONDER!
- Be grateful

**Further details...**

1. Snacking during class is a privilege. Please ask first. Drinks are allowed IF THEY HAVE LIDS. Any food or drink that does not meet these criteria will be confiscated until the end of class.
2. **UNPLUG!!! Technology is a tool, not a distraction. Cell phones and ipods/mp3 players should not be visible or in use AT ANY TIME unless special permission is granted (please ask).** If these devices are visible (earbuds included) at any other time, they will be confiscated.
3. FHS attendance policy and attendance incentive have changed. See the student handbook for details.
4. FHS dress code is to be followed AT ALL TIMES. See the student handbook for details.

5. Cheating, plagiarism, and copyright violations will not be tolerated. A first offense results in a zero on the assignment. A second offense results in potential failure of the entire semester.

### **Homework and assignments**

Assignments will be recorded on my web page (so if you are at home and cannot remember if there is homework- check online!).

**ALL FINAL DRAFTS OF PAPERS MUST BE TYPED!** Emailed copies are acceptable under specific situations (especially when your printer runs out of ink!). **Time will not be given in class to print assignments on the day they are due. Assignments must be submitted in the first FIVE minutes of class to be considered on time.**

Daily work is graded on four criteria: completeness, promptness, originality, and quality. Assignments that are complete, original work of high quality, and handed in on time, will receive full credit.

Makeup work for excused absences can be completed according to the schedule described in the student handbook.

**Please note: EXTRA CREDIT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE MISSING ASSIGNMENTS OR HAVE EXCEEDED THE THREE DAY ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE.**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU HAVE MISSED.** The best places to start are your classmates and my website.

If you miss...

1. NOTES: Arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. If this is *impossible*, arrange a time to come in outside of class to get the notes from Ms. Cordes.
2. WORKSHEET: Check the file basket.
3. VIDEO: You must view the video outside of class time in the FHS library or my classroom.
4. ORAL PRESENTATIONS/DEBATES/GROUP ACTIVITIES: If you are absent for significant group activities, you will be required to do a written project to substitute for this activity.
5. UNIT EXAMS/QUIZZES: Arrange to take the exam by scheduling it with Ms. Cordes immediately upon return. Failure to arrange make-ups may result in failure of the course.

### **NOTEBOOK AND SUPPLIES REQUIREMENT:**

- a folder for class materials/handouts
- a notebook for lab data, class notes, and daily assignments
- paper (loose leaf)
- pencil and a pen with blue or black ink

\*\*If you have difficulty obtaining any of these supplies, please see me BEFORE they are needed in class\*\*

**DO NOT THROW OUT ANY WORK FROM THIS CLASS. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT NEED IT!**

### **Grading scale**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

**Grades are based on percent of total points.  
I do not round percentages- what you earn is what you get!**

Your semester grade is calculated using 45% first quarter grade, 45% second quarter grade, and 10% semester assessment grade.

**Please sign below, and return this portion to Ms. Cordes by Tuesday, September 10, 2019.**

I really did read Ms. Cordes' syllabus and am aware of what is required of me as a student in Ms. Cordes' class. I agree to follow these guidelines throughout the school year. I have located the information sheet in my Biology folder/binder where I can refer to it when needed.

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

Student email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have also read the class information sheet and am aware of what is required of my son/daughter in Ms. Cordes' class.

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

Please contact me via:

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please write this legibly. This the easiest way for me to keep you updated on class assignments and your child's progress.

**Thank you for your support at home!**