



Barack Obama Academy of International Studies

515 N. Highland Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone: 412-529-5980 | Fax: 412-622-5983

September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I welcome you and your child to a new school year at Pittsburgh Barack Obama Academy of International Studies 6-12. I look forward to preparing your child to meet and exceed the expectations of the MYP Biology course. In order for them to maximize their potential and achievement, I ask you to be aware of their progress (using the online grade book), provide any assistance you can to them on course assignments (using Google Classroom as a resource) and review the rest of the information in this document.

Course Description

The course is broken down into 2 modules with each containing 4 units of study. At the end of the school year, each student is expected to take the Keystone Biology exam to assess your student's understanding and mastery of the course content. We will follow the course roadmap to ensure your child gets the opportunity to explore each unit of study.

The course sequence will progress in the following manner:

1. **Ecology** – “Organisms and Their Environment” – Sept. / Oct.
2. **Basic Biological Principles** – “Levels of Organization” Oct.
3. **Chemistry of Life** - Nov. – Dec.
4. **Cells** – “Structure and Function” Dec.
5. **Bioenergetics** – “The Energy for Life” – Jan. – Feb.
6. **Cell Growth & the Cell Cycle** – Feb. - March
7. **Genetics** – “DNA the Substance of Life” – April - May
8. **Evolution** – “The Diversity of Life” May – June

Course Materials

Students are asked to bring a **science notebook to class daily** (composition book or 1 subject spiral notebook), a **pencil** and an **Agenda book**. Students will be provided with an access code to use their Miller/Levine Biology online textbook in Google Classroom. If a student does not have access to a computer, a hard copy of a textbook will be provided upon request.

*Students will be responsible for completing Study Island lessons/quizzes for assessment purposes and to help them prepare for the Keystone Biology Exam in May.





Grading Policy

All assignments are expected to be submitted by the student on the due date to receive full credit. Any late submissions will be penalized with a grade or point value deduction based on established class policies. **No extra credit assignments will be provided at any point this year.**

Grades are calculated using a number of different types of course assignments.

Classwork – 25%

Tests/Quizzes – 25%

Participation – 20%

Writing – 20%

Homework – 10 %

Late work policy – students are responsible for any missing assignments upon return from an absence. Students are responsible for requesting their make-up assignments. They have as many days as they were absent to complete missing assignments or a zero will be earned. All homework is due the day after it is assigned unless otherwise noted and may be submitted 1 day late for half credit.

* A project may be assigned at the end of each quarter as a summative assessment.

Science learning objectives specific to IBMYP will be assessed using the IBMYP assessment criteria listed below:

- A. Knowing and Understanding
- B. Inquiring and Designing
- C. Processing and Evaluating
- D. Reflecting on the Impact of Science

Grading Scale:

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

Below 60% = E



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Classroom Expectations

1. Students are expected to be on time to class.
2. Students are expected to come to class prepared.
3. No food or drink is permitted for safety issues.
4. Cell phones are not permitted unless teacher requests them to be used for educational purposes.
5. Listen when the teacher is providing instruction or directions.

Discipline Policy

If students are failing to meet classroom expectations or are causing a classroom disruption the following steps will be taken:

1. Teacher/student conference
2. Phone call or email home if the problem persists
3. Teacher will request a parent conference if the problem has not been solved

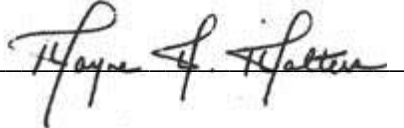
Daily Routine

1. **Warm Up** – written response to a prompt in their journal (5 minutes)
2. **Instruction/Assignment**- What, Why and How will be provided on the chalkboard to ensure student is aware of daily goals and objectives.
3. **Assessment** – used to assess student understandings of lesson/daily instruction
4. **Homework** – given daily (**due the next day unless teacher provides a date**)
5. **Weekly** – Biology article summarization

If you have any questions regarding this course or your child, please contact me using my email address sbachar1@pghboe.net or by phone (412) 529-2275.

Thank You,

Mr. Scott Bachar

Approved :  , Principal





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Please fill out this form and have your child return this last page to me.

I have read the course policies in Mr Bachar's Biology class. I understand and accept the course expectations and policies. I will take personal responsibility of these expectations and policies to ensure of my success in Biology class.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Preferred method of contact (email address or phone #) _____

