

**OPEN DISCLOSURE**  
**Biology**  
**Mr. James Dalton Room C202**

**Course Description**

Welcome to Biology. This is a full year course and is one of the three science credits required for graduation. We will study Biology as outlined in the Utah Core Curriculum.

**Course Goals and Objectives**

The objective of this course is for students to develop an understanding of basic biological concepts and scientific processes. Some of the major topics will include: cells, ecology, body chemistry, genetics, biodiversity, classification, body systems and changes in life through time. The state and district core curriculum guides can be found at:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/core/page2.htm>

<http://staff.slcschools.org/lmadden/science/Pages/bio.htm>

**Format and Procedures**

We will accomplish the course goals and objectives by combining daily journal activities, lecture/discussion, demonstrations, bookwork, notes, group work, labs, drawings, research activities, videos, and possible field trips. Some lab activities may require us to go out on the school grounds or walk to the surrounding neighborhoods to gather information.

**Grading**

I grade on a total points system and grades are updated weekly on PowerSchool.

Attendance and positive participation are absolutely necessary for academic success.

Because of this, students can earn 10 participation points per day for attending class on time, bringing required materials and actively participating in class activities.

**(Participation points must be made up, even if an absence is excused.)** Students will also earn points for notebooks, assignments, quizzes, tests, labs and projects. Each of these items contribute to students overall grade. Students will be required to keep a Human Biology Journal/Notebook. The notebook will include daily journal activities, class notes, review questions, drawings, and lab assignments. Notebook grades are based on completeness, neatness, and organization. The students' grade will be determined by their participation in class, and the quality & quantity of work completed. Grades are based on the following percentages:

93%-100% = A	90% - 92% = A-	87% - 89% = B+	83% - 86% = B
80% - 82% = B-	77% - 79% = C+	73% - 76% = C	70% - 72% = C-
67% - 69% = D+	63% - 66% = D	60% - 62% = D-	Below 60% = F

**Extra Credit**

Students will be given three hall pass coupons at the beginning of each quarter. At the end of the quarter, any unused hall pass coupons may be turned in for extra credit. Each

hall pass coupon is worth five points for a maximum of 15 points extra credit per term. Other extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the year, but not guaranteed.

### **Important Deadlines**

1. **Notebook Checks** - Notebooks are checked at the end of each grading term.
2. **End of Term Cut-off Date**-The last Wednesday of each grading term will be the final day to hand in any assignments including make-up work and extra credit.
3. **There is no set schedule for assignments, quizzes or tests.**

### **Late Work and Make – Up Work**

All assignments need to be handed in on time to receive full credit! Students will lose ten percent of the total points possible for each day an assignment is late. **Late assignments will only be accepted up to one week after the original assignment was due.**

**Grades are earned throughout the term. You will NOT be able to come in at the end of the quarter and get all of the work that you missed to improve your grade!!**

Make-up work is for **excused absences only** and is the students' responsibility. Excusal notes will only be accepted up to one week after the absence or tardy. Please see me before school or at lunch for make-up work or for additional help. Students will be given one week from the day they return to make up the work without penalty. Some activities or labs completed in class may not be able to be made up if the students miss them. **MAKE-UP WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES!**

### **Course Materials**

Students are expected to have the following items out and ready to go when the tardy bell rings each day:

1. A pencil or pen
2. Your Biology Notebook (Provided by the school and kept in the classroom)
3. Worksheets & handouts

Textbooks kept in classroom (Holt Biology - Visualizing Life ISBN 0-03-016732-X)

**Students are required to pay a \$20 laboratory fee for this course.** (Covered by fee waivers.)

### **Class Expectations**

1. Treat others with respect. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated
2. Be prepared and **on time** for class each day.
3. Follow all directions and safety procedures.
4. Respect the rights and property of others.
5. Be quiet and attentive when someone else is speaking.
6. Absolutely no cheating or copying another student's work. **(You will both get a 0)**
7. Follow all school rules and policies. (No cell phone or ipod use during class)

Following these expectations will provide a positive and productive learning environment. Failure to comply with these expectations will result in disciplinary action.

On the first offense a student will receive a warning. A citation, referral or other disciplinary action will take place on following offenses.

**Safety**

Please be careful. Think before you act. Safety will be an ongoing theme throughout the year. The number of students in the classroom and the types of activities we engage in excludes the teacher from observing everyone at all times. The National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers recommend that laboratory classes such as this one have 24 or fewer students, for safety reasons alone. Typically our Biology classes have 30 students. Thus there are inherent risks that may only be mitigated by each students being very careful. **THINK SAFETY FIRST!**

All students are required by the state to have a **Parent/Guardian Consent Form** for topics that we may cover relating to human sexuality instruction.

**Contact Information**

I am looking forward to an exciting year in Human Biology. I feel that good communication between parents and teachers is beneficial for student success. I encourage parents to check PowerSchool on a weekly basis to monitor student progress. If you have questions or concerns please contact me at (801) 583-1661 Ext. 3202 or Jim.dalton@slcschools.org

Thank you,  
James Dalton

No district employee or student shall be subjected to discrimination in employment or any district program or activity on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The district is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunity in its programs, services and employment including its policies, complaint processes, program accessibility, district facility use, accommodations and other Equal Employment Opportunity matters. The district also provides equal access to district facilities for all youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code, including scouting groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation: Whitney Banks, Compliance and Investigations, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, (801) 578-8388. You may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, Denver, CO, (303) 844-5695.

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**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PORTION OF THE DISCLOSURE TO MR. DALTON**

**I have carefully read and understand this disclosure for Mr. Dalton's Biology Class.**

Student name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Parent Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone Number or Email Address)