

8th Grade STEM Biology Syllabus

2020-2021

Mrs. Gilbertson, Room #270

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<http://schools.dickinsonisd.org/page/bgilbertson-Home>

Welcome back to school! It is a crazy time but happy you all are with me. It is such an honor to be teaching your students this year. I

would also like to welcome you to STEM, Biology It is a privilege to take Biology as an 8th grader; this course is equivalent to a PAP course at the high school! As such, this course will have a higher level of rigor and students will be expected to dive deeper into their level of understanding. Students will be expected and challenged to do THEIR BEST on all notes, assignments, tests, and projects. Again, it is very important that students understand that their effort and focus is more necessary than ever because high school credit should be EARNED.

As always, I am here to help and support your students along the way. Never hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. It is going to be an awesome and rewarding year. I cannot wait to get to know your students even better, watch them continue to learn and grow, and challenge them to conquer even bigger obstacles.

LET'S GO GATORS!!!

Mrs. Gilbertson

Material to be Covered: Biology covers a lot of material, all of which, in my opinion, is incredibly interesting! Hopefully, I will be able to instill some of the same excitement I have for the material into your student this year!

1st nine weeks	2nd nine weeks	3rd nine weeks	4th nine weeks
Introduction/Safety	Transcription	Evolution	Plant Systems
Biomolecules	Translation	Natural Selection	STAAR Review
Enzymes	Mitosis	Body Systems	
Cells	Cancer	Taxonomy	
Transport	Meiosis	Ecosystems	
Homeostasis	Genetics	Succession	
Virus			



Grading:

Formative Assignments/Assessments - Value of 9-weeks Grade = 40%

Summative Assessments - Value of 9-weeks Grade = 60%

Tutorials: Every Monday 3:15 - 4:00 (beginning September 9th)

Please note you will need to arrange your own transportation; students will be picked up at the front entrance of KJHS.

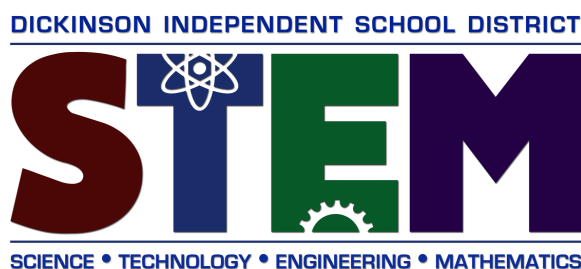
Resources, reminders and miscellaneous:

- <https://tea.texas.gov/>
STAAR Results, TEKS, etc.
- KHAN Academy
- Google Classroom
- Science Interactive Notebook
- YouTube-Amoeba Sisters and Bozeman Science
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Mrs. Gilbertson's Conference Time: 2:21-:315 (7th Period)

General Expectations:

Class participation is not optional. Students must complete warm-ups, notes, class-work/activities, exit tickets, homework etc. Remember: this is a high school class. High school credit should be earned. If students do not have an assignment completed (including because of an absence) they are to grab a clean sheet of paper, put the heading on as expected and explain why they do not have the assignment. Ten points will be taken off for every day an assignment is late (assignments are not late if a student is absent). If students are absent they will need to turn in the work that was due the day they missed, copy notes missed from a classmate, check the absent folder for any papers missed and turn in make-up work within the same number of days they were absent (i.e. absent one day = one day to make up work).



- Collaboration
- Communication
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Reflection

STEM Academy Honor Code

Respect: *Be kind and supportive of yourself and others.*

Because we believe in **respect**, students will:

- Listen, behave, and speak respectfully to fellow students and all staff members.
- Collaborate effectively and equitably with all classmates, solving problems peacefully to maintain a heightened learning environment.
- Always strive to be polite, kind, and supportive, respecting the learning needs of other students in their environment.
- Show pride and respect for their campus, district, and community.
- Value and learn from diverse opinions and lifestyles among their classmates and staff.

Perseverance: *Push through until the end despite difficulties.*

Because we believe in **perseverance**, students will:

- Exemplify commitment, pride, and a positive attitude in completing tasks, demonstrating their best effort.
- When faced with obstacles, consistently problem-solve and try new solutions or a unique approach.
- Effectively manage time and materials to ensure academic and personal goals will be met.
- Take the initiative to seek out help and support when needed to ensure academic success.
- Keep an open mind to every subject/assignment and commit to learning each day.

Integrity: *Doing the right thing, even when no one is looking.*

Because we believe in **integrity**, students will:

- Admit to, and take responsibility when they have done something wrong.
- Submit **authentic work** and credit sources used in formal writing.
- Use technology appropriately and as instructed for classroom learning.
- Diligently uphold all rules and requirements for the classroom, school, and district.
- Use all school materials and facilities for academic learning, adhering to all guidelines provided.

Leadership: *Be a model example for others.*

Because we believe in **leadership**, students will...

- Lead by positive example through their work and actions, exceeding campus and district expectations.
- Strive to work at high levels, performing beyond minimum requirements.
- Empower fellow classmates to express their thoughts and take academic risks.
- Advocate for what they know is right by standing up for themselves and others.
- Consider how their words or actions will affect others before communicating or taking action.
- Behave in an encouraging and collaborative manner when working with others.

Responsibility: *Own your choices, taking responsibility for your words and actions.*

Because we believe in **responsibility**, students will:

- Independently monitor and manage classwork, homework and late/make-up work.
- Actively participate in their own learning.
- Strive to be on time, rested, prepared, and attentive for class.
- Be mindful of how their actions affect others.
- Do their best to fix mistakes, asking for help when required.