

2021-2022 Syllabus – Biology

Mr. Jonathan Lowe

Waltrip Mission Statement

Waltrip High School fosters a safe and challenging learning environment, preparing students for post-secondary education and a competitive global workforce through rigorous core academic instruction, comprehensive social-emotional supports, an array of quality fine arts and athletics programs, and comprehensive career and technology education.

Classroom Objectives:

- Maximize learning opportunities for all students via diverse and data-driven instruction
- Foster a community of respect, integrity, and inclusion both in and out of the classroom
- Share personal experiences and knowledge to help students succeed in all aspects of life

Information on the Biology STAAR:

Freshman Biology is a STAAR assessed course. Barring unforeseen changes, the test will be administered at Waltrip in May of 2022. Students must pass the STAAR to graduate from high school. Students who do not pass the STAAR in May of 2022 will need to retake the assessment in subsequent years until they pass.

The STAAR test will cover all the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Biology. Therefore, the Waltrip Biology Curriculum is designed to ensure students have time to learn and practice all TEKS. In addition, a STAAR-prep “bootcamp” is embedded to review material prior to the STAAR exam.

Academic Unit Schedules:

Cycle	Dates	Major Topics
1	Aug 23 – Oct 1	Biomolecules, Enzymes, Cells, Viruses
2	Oct 4 – Nov 12	Cellular Transport, DNA, Cell Cycle, Cancer, Protein Synthesis
3	Nov 15 – Jan 14	Mutations, Genetics, Natural Selection
4	Jan 17 – Feb 25	Evolution, Taxonomy, Animal Body Systems
5	Feb 28 – Apr 22	Plant Systems, Energy Cycles, Ecology, STAAR Prep
6	Apr 25 – Jun 7	STAAR Prep, STAAR Exam, Chemistry Intro, Finals

Teacher Contact Information:

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 (409) 241-6120
 "Remind" App Code: @lowebio21

Non-Instructional Time Summary:

Description	Days / Times	Purpose
Office Hours	W, F: 7:30 – 8:20	Tutorials by appointment
Conference Period	M: 12:45 – 1:25 T/Th: 12:55 – 2:25	Parent / Teacher conferences, instructional planning, administrative tasks
Quiet Time	4:10pm – 7:30am, Weekends	Mr. Lowe's time away from work (though I often respond to school-related messages)

Classwork and Grading Policy

- Assignments for Biology will include reading, labs, and other homework
 - Assignments will be listed in the HUB but may utilize other digital resources
 - Students need to acknowledge completion of assignments in the HUB even if they submit assignments in other platforms
 - This is a STAAR course; students should expect rigor and thoroughness
 - Students should expect to spend time on the class OUTSIDE of class hours
- Each assignment will include a due date to ensure content is learned at the appropriate time
 - Assignments completed on or before the due date will have a maximum score of 100%
 - Assignments completed after the due date will have a maximum score of 80%
 - Assignments will not be accepted later than one week past the original due date
 - For extenuating circumstances such as unforeseen absences, alternative due dates may be arranged at the discretion of the teacher
- Grading
 - Students should complete all assigned reading and questions; however, every question may or may not be graded
 - The teacher will not announce ahead of time which questions are graded
 - Re-takes / Re-dos
 - Consistent with school policy, students that fail an assessment or assignment will have the opportunity to re-take the assessment or re-do the assignment
 - Re-takes / re-dos will have a maximum 80% score
 - Re-takes / re-dos must be completed within one week of the original due date or the end of the 6-week grading period (whichever comes first)
 - Grade weight by assessment type:
 - Exams & Quizzes – 35%
 - Labs – 30%
 - Classwork and homework – 25%
 - Participation – 10%

Tardy / Absence Policy:

- The purpose of the tardy policy is to maximize instructional time with every student
- Students are expected to arrive in the classroom and be seated before the tardy bell rings
 - Students arriving less than 15 minutes late on Mondays or less than 30 minutes late Tuesday - Friday will be considered tardy
 - Students arriving greater than 15 minutes late on Mondays or greater than 30 minutes late Tuesday - Friday will be considered absent
 - A signed pass from a teacher or administrator will be accepted, though these occurrences should be minimized

Restroom Policy:

- Students are expected to use restroom facilities during passing periods or lunch and should plan accordingly
- Students should use the restroom during class time sparingly
 - No students may use the restroom during the first 15 minutes or last 15 minutes of class time
 - Only one student (regardless of gender) may use the restroom at a time
 - Students must use the class hall pass and return within 5 minutes of leaving

Electronics Policy:

- Students will put away phones and earbuds in their bags prior to entering the classroom
- Failure to follow teacher directions regarding electronics will result in temporary confiscation of devices consistent with school policy
- Special notes on laptops:
 - Students will need laptops every day for lectures, assignments, labs, and assessments
 - Laptops should only be used for appropriate activities as directed by the teacher

Other Classroom Policies

- Food and drinks
 - Students may drink water in the classroom
 - No other food or drink may be consumed in the classroom
- Entering the classroom
 - Only the door in the front of the classroom will be unlocked for entry
 - All materials aside from the student laptops, notebooks, and writing utensils should be placed on the side counters or the floor near students' seats
 - Nearly all the coursework will be administered electronically
 - Students should sit according to the seating chart and begin work on the "Do Now" posted activity
- "Remind" App
 - Students and parents are highly encouraged to download the "Remind" app
 - This app is used for seamless communication between all parties
 - To join, text the following code to "81010": @lowebio21