

Student Handbook for Regents Biology

a.k.a. The Living Environment

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Get Ready for Biology!

This should be a great year at Colonie High School! My name is Mr. Goldberg and I will be your biology teacher this year. During the year, we will carry out many exciting and informative laboratory activities and discussions to help you understand this branch of science.

The year will begin with the basics of biology and cellular biology, as we study how all living things are similar yet different. The tour continues with such topics as organic chemistry, basic processes of life, human physiology (including reproduction and development), molecular genetics, genetic engineering, evolution, and ecology.

Don't worry if this all seems overwhelming! I am here to help as much as possible. You must remember that if you need help with something, see me right away!

Goldie's Room On-Line

I have a website which can be utilized for finding out which assignments are due, where to find useful biology links on the internet, video clips, interactive animations, classroom policies, as well as looking at pictures of the class in action! The website is **www.goldiesroom.org**. I update this site weekly so be sure to check it often. There is also a link to my e-mail address: **goldie@alum.rpi.edu**. *Please make sure that you receive this and do not classify it as **spam**.* I will send home weekly work schedules to all families that use the internet at home or work. This resource has been very helpful to many students. You may **always** contact me via e-mail. I am able to respond immediately!

Required Materials

Throughout the year, you will be receiving note packets from me that include the basic outline of the course. In these packets will be all of your homework assignments. You also will receive a textbook. Don't worry, you will not have to lug this back and forth every day.

However, here is what you **will** need to bring **every day**:

- a 3-ring binder (2" or bigger ring)
- at least two pens and pencils
- your BRAINS!
- review book (cost ~\$15—available in February/March)

The binder is by far the most important thing you must bring to class. Used properly, it will keep all of your materials organized.

After School Hours:

I will be after school pretty much every day for one thing or another. My after school hours are from 2:05-2:40. If we are making up lab work or having a really good review class, it might go for a little longer. Generally, here is the schedule, although the schedule may change due to my other classes.

MONDAYS—Lab Make-up/Extra Help

TUESDAYS—OPEN (unavailable the 1st two Tuesdays of the month due to staff meetings)

WEDNESDAYS—Quiz Make-Up/Extra Help

THURSDAYS—Lab Make-up/Extra Help

FRIDAYS—Biology Coffeehouse for AP Biology

Classroom Regulations:

- **ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING SCHOOL HOURS! IF THEY ARE VISIBLE BY ME, THEY WILL BE TAKEN AWAY BY ME AND BROUGHT TO THE OFFICE TO BE PICKED UP BY THE PARENTS.**
- When a lesson or class discussion is in progress, students will sit quietly in their seats.
- Except during Q.O.D.s and tests/quizzes, you will have your biology binder on your desk **at all times!**
- Students will **not** leave the classroom **at any time** during the class period so come prepared.
- Students may use their breaks (during double periods) to use the bathroom, water fountain, or stretch their legs as long as **they are in their seats when the bell rings! THIS BREAK CAN BE TAKEN AWAY IF ABUSED!**
- Students will only leave the class when dismissed by the teacher, **NOT** the bell.
- Food or drink is **NEVER** allowed in the classroom/laboratory.
- Respectful behavior and language is expected at all times.
- If I am ever absent, I have **a zero-tolerance policy for disrespecting substitutes.**
- As a freshman, you are expected to conduct yourself in an adult manner. If however, you regress and forget to act like high school students, we will deal with you in the following manner outlined in the school behavior policy.

A Typical Day in Biology

Throughout this year, most class days will follow a certain routine. On double-period lab days, generally, the first period is a regular class and the second period is devoted to the lab exercise. If we are doing the fetal-pig dissection or are in the middle of one of the state labs, we might have a double period lab day. Here is the typical order of events in during a class:

1. **Question of the Day (Q.O.D.)**

This is a question based off of the prior days' work. If you have reviewed the material and completed your homework (where most of these questions come from), then you should get it right. These are worth 5 points each and count as BONUS points. The students' Q.O.D. average (which is posted in the classroom) every quarter gets added right on top of their quarter average! (~5 minutes)

2. **Objective and Homework Announcement** (~1 minute)

3. **Homework Check/Review**

If I decided to check homework, it would happen now. We will then spend a few minutes reviewing the homework from the night before. I will always go over work that I assign in class. (~10 minutes)

4. **New Material**

During this block of class, any new material, demonstrations, discussions, video clips, or anything relevant to the objective will be presented. It is very important for you to be engaged in the class. I will call on people randomly every day so be prepared! YOU MUST BRING YOUR BRAIN TO CLASS! (~20 minutes)

5. **Review**

During the last few minutes of class, we will review the highlights of the day. Often, students are assigned one page out of their packet (sometimes, this is one of the many pages of homework!).

6. **Lab Work**

If there is a double period class, we will start the lab after the review. Most of the time, this occurs after the break.

Expectations of WORK

The secret of success for this course can be told in one simple sentence that I'm sure all of my former students will stand behind:

“If you fail to plan, plan to fail.”

Yes, it is that simple. What we will be doing this year is not middle school work. A lot will be asked of you. Yes, you will have homework every night. Yes, you will have to study every night. Yes, you will have lab assignments on top of your normal homework. I do not listen to excuses. You need to do what is asked of you if you wish to succeed!

You are to do all work on your own! If there is an inkling of suspicion that the work was not done by the student, no credit will be given. It might seem like an easy way to get credit, but I do not take towards **cheating** lightly!

Homework Policy

Count on homework every night, which will be due the next class. I check homework randomly about 10 times a quarter. I do not accept late work (that means any time after I check it), partial work, or work that is illegible. To get a 100% homework grade, simply **complete every assignment properly when they are given**. If the assignment is not completed, you receive a 0 for that day. If you are absent at all, you can check the class website, or refer to the e-mail I send home every week to find out what the assignment was.

Lab Policy

To become eligible for the Regents exam in June, each student must complete **1200 laboratory minutes** in biology including the **four mandated state lab activities**. I break this down into ~30 individual lab assignments which **ALL MUST BE COMPLETED**.

These assignments fall into two categories: ***experimental*** laboratories and ***observational*** laboratories.

- *Observational* labs will mainly involve “watching” some natural phenomena occur, drawing labeled diagrams of biological structures and/or organisms, or making inferences from material or demonstrations assembled by the teacher prior to class.
- *Experimental* observations will involve hypothesis formation, setting up equipment, manipulation and control of variables, collecting, tabulating, and graphically displaying data, and the drawing of conclusions based upon the data collected.

Lab assignments **do** contribute to your grade each quarter. To get credit for a lab assignment, they must be **completed correctly** and **on time**. Here is how your labs are assessed:

If ALL summary sheets are handed in on time AND acceptablegood job! You did what you were supposed to do.
For each summary sheet handed in AFTER the due date...	...1 point will be SUBTRACTED from your quarter average.
For each summary sheet handed in INCOMPLETE or is NOT SATISFACTORY...	...1 point will be SUBTRACTED from your quarter average, once the lab is fixed.
If you are MISSING ONE or more summary sheets at the end of the quarter...	...you will automatically get an “F” for that quarter!

How to determine your grade...

Students are always curious about their grade. With about 100 students, I do not have the time in class to tell each student what their current average is. Basically, everything counts.

- **Homework:** your homework average counts as one quiz grade
- **Quizzes:** are generally about 20-25 questions and take about 20-25 minutes. All of your quiz grades get averaged together into a test grade.
- **Tests:** are generally 35-50 questions and take a full period. We usually have two tests per quarter, not including the average of your quizzes. These are averaged together to get your raw score.
- **Bonus Points/Point Deductions:** if you earned a Q.O.D. bonus or a lab bonus, they get added on to your raw score. If you lost points due to labs, they get taken off your raw score.

We will figure out the hypothetical grade of a student below. On the next pages, you can keep track of your grade for all four quarters.

The above student completed 8 of 10 homework assignments in the above quarter. On the 5 quizzes in the quarter, the student scored the following: 85, 81, 68, 92, and a 90. On the two tests, the student scored a 78 and 83. The student also earned 2.7 points from question of the day. However, the student turned 2 labs in late and had to redo one lab. What is the student's quarter average?

HW AVG: _____

QUIZ 1: _____

QUIZ 2: _____

QUIZ 3: _____

QUIZ 4: _____

QUIZ 5: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

(the average of all quizzes including the homework grade)

TEST 1: _____

TEST 2: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

TEST AVG: _____

(the average of all tests including the quiz average)

Q.O.D. PTS: _____

LAB +/-: _____

QUARTER GRADE: _____

Quarter 1 Grade

HW AVG: _____

QUIZ 1: _____

QUIZ 2: _____

QUIZ 3: _____

QUIZ 4: _____

QUIZ 5: _____

QUIZ 6: _____

QUIZ 7: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

(the average of all quizzes including the homework grade)

TEST 1: _____

TEST 2: _____

TEST 3: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

TEST AVG: _____

(the average of all tests including the quiz average)

Q.O.D. PTS: _____

LAB +/-: _____

QUARTER GRADE: _____

Quarter 2 Grade

HW AVG: _____

QUIZ 1: _____

QUIZ 2: _____

QUIZ 3: _____

QUIZ 4: _____

QUIZ 5: _____

QUIZ 6: _____

QUIZ 7: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

(the average of all quizzes including the homework grade)

TEST 1: _____

TEST 2: _____

TEST 3: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

TEST AVG: _____

(the average of all tests including the quiz average)

Q.O.D. PTS: _____

LAB +/-: _____

QUARTER GRADE: _____

Quarter 3 Grade

HW AVG: _____

QUIZ 1: _____

QUIZ 2: _____

QUIZ 3: _____

QUIZ 4: _____

QUIZ 5: _____

QUIZ 6: _____

QUIZ 7: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

(the average of all quizzes including the homework grade)

TEST 1: _____

TEST 2: _____

TEST 3: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

TEST AVG: _____

(the average of all tests including the quiz average)

Q.O.D. PTS: _____

LAB +/-: _____

QUARTER GRADE: _____

Quarter 4 Grade

HW AVG: _____

QUIZ 1: _____

QUIZ 2: _____

QUIZ 3: _____

QUIZ 4: _____

QUIZ 5: _____

QUIZ 6: _____

QUIZ 7: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

(the average of all quizzes including the homework grade)

TEST 1: _____

TEST 2: _____

TEST 3: _____

QUIZ AVG: _____

TEST AVG: _____

(the average of all tests including the quiz average)

Q.O.D. PTS: _____

LAB +/-: _____

QUARTER GRADE: _____