



WELCOME to 9th Grade BIOLOGY 2025-2026

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title	Biology (Grade 9)
Teacher	Mrs. Santana
Contact Information	Email: santanaei@epsnj.org , Room 22
Class Schedule	See bell schedule in the last page

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of key biological concepts, principles, and terminology.
- Apply scientific inquiry and critical thinking skills to analyze and solve biological problems.
- Conduct laboratory experiments, collect data, and draw evidence-based conclusions.
- Understand the ethical implications and societal impact of biological advancements.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an in-depth study of biological concepts, including cell biology, genetics, evolution, and ecology. Students will engage in hands-on laboratory experiments, scientific inquiry, and critical thinking to develop a solid understanding of biological processes and their applications in the real world.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Textbook: "Biology: National Geographic. Online access will be provided
- Notebook or binder, folder, pen, pencils, color pencils, school computer, computer charger.

Homework and Classwork	40%
Projects	20%
Test and Quizzes	20%
Benchmark	20%

**GRADING
POLICY**

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Introduction to Biology

- Scientific method and experimental design
- Characteristics of life and levels of organization
- Introduction to cell biology and microscopy techniques
- Molecules in the living systems

Unit 2: Cell Systems

- Cell structure and function
- Cell growth

Unit 3: Ecology and Ecosystems

- Ecological relationships and energy flow
- Population dynamics and community interactions
- Biomes and global environmental issues

Unit 4: Genetics and Inheritance

- Mendelian genetics and Punnett squares
- Chromosomal basis of inheritance
- DNA structure, replication, and protein synthesis

Unit 5: Evolution and Biodiversity

- Natural selection and adaptation
- Speciation and evolutionary patterns
- Classification and phylogenetics

LAB SAFETY

Students must adhere to proper lab safety protocols, including wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), following instructions carefully, and maintaining a clean and organized workspace.

CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, AND UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STUDENTS DURING EXAMS/QUIZZES IS PROHIBITED!

If a student is found cheating
In a test or quiz he/she will
receive a 0.

If a student is found copying the
work of another student, both
Students will receive a penalty in
the assignment.

CLASS RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to adhere to classroom rules to create an optimal learning environment.

- **Be prepared:** Arrive on time, have materials ready, and submit assignments punctually.
- **Participate in class:** Engage actively, work diligently, ask questions, and collaborate with your group.
- **Show respect and understanding:** Listen when others speak, avoid interrupting, and conduct yourself appropriately towards classmates and the teacher.

Use of electronic devices (except for educational purposes) is not allowed during class.

HOMEWORK POLICY

- Assignments will be communicated in class and collected on the due date.
- Time required for completion may vary. Allocate at least one hour per week for homework.

LATE WORK

- Late assignments accepted within 3 days with a mild penalty.
- After 3 days, late work receives a maximum grade of 80%.
- Long-term assignments have a 1-day grace period, followed by a 10% daily penalty.

ABSENCES AND MAKEUP WORK

- Consult the teacher for help, questions, or makeup arrangements.
- Extension period for makeup work matches days absent.
- You are NOT excused from an assignment just because you're absent

Consequences

If a student fails to meet the expectations, the following consequences will follow:

Cellphone violations:

- 1st violation: warning (parent contact)
- 2nd violation: lunchtime tutoring (parent contact)
- 3rd violation: after-school tutoring (parent contact)
- 4th violation: in-person parent conference

Uniform violations:

- 1st violation: warning (parent contact)
- 2nd violation: lunchtime tutoring (parent contact)
- 3rd violation: after-school tutoring (parent contact)
- 4th violation: in-person parent conference

Use of Profanity in Class/Disruptive classroom

Behavior:

- 1st violation: lunchtime tutoring (parent contact)
- 2nd violation: after-school tutoring (parent contact)
- 3rd violation: suspended pending in-person parent conference

Class Procedures & Routines

1. Upon entering the classroom student **MUST** place their phones in the cellphone caddy
2. Seat in your assigned seat
3. Begin Do Now
4. No bathroom break the first and last 10 minutes of class.

Attendance policy

- If you arrive late, you will be marked late- unless you have a pass.
- As per the district policy: A student must be in attendance for 171 of the 180-day school year (95%). The student shall be allowed no more than a total of nine (9) absences

Uniform Policy

- Navy Blue Polo Shirt*
- Khaki Pants/Skirt
- Navy Blue Tights or Socks
- Black Flat Appropriate Shoes
- Navy Blue Cardigan Sweater*

- Students out of uniform will have consequences. Please see the consequences section above.

Use of electronic devices (except for educational purposes) is not allowed during class.

Bell Schedule

High School Bell Schedule

Period	Start	Finish
1	7:45 AM	8:32 AM
2	8:36 AM	9:23 AM
3	9:27 AM	10:14 AM
4	10:18 AM	11:05 AM
5	11:09 AM	11:56 AM
6	12:00 PM	12:47 PM
7	12:51 PM	1:38 PM
8	1:42 PM	2:29 PM

Student & Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment to be Returned to Mrs. Santana

I, _____ (student name) have read and understand the class rules and expectations. I will follow these rules and will do my best to contribute to a positive classroom environment.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____

