# General Biology- 2015-2016

**Student Performance Expectations**

**Instructors:** Mrs. M. Sferrra and Mr. C. Runion

**Goals of the course:**

The course is an overview of the biological sciences. The student is introduced to the science of biology, the diversity of life, biochemistry, cellular structure and function, the basic needs of organisms, natural selection, genetics, and applications in biotechnology.

We will discuss bioethical issues related to topics such as cloning, stem cell research, and genetic engineering.

**Communication:**

We believe communication between parents and teachers is very important.

If you wish to contact either of us, please use the following e-mail addresses:

[msferra@mtsd.us](mailto:msferra@mtsd.us)

crunion@mtsd.us

Assignments will be posted on Parent Resources.

Parents and/or guardians will receive e-mails about upcoming tests and projects.

**Class rules:**

This is very simple – be responsible and be respectful. Please follow class expectations for behavior and participation. Positive participation is expected every day, including working on your own and with classmates. Please be respectful to each other and to the teachers. Be on time to class – we start each class at the beginning of the block. Please think about your actions and words – it is expected that you are responsible and respectful. There is no food allowed in the classroom unless for medical reasons. Please abstain from eating. There is no cell phone use in class. No excuses.

**Safety:**

Safety is a majorconcern in a lab course. Each student will be instructed in the proper safety procedures in the lab. Safety precautions will be reinforced for each lab activity.

A safety contract is posted on my webpage. Please read it and sign the form given to each student.

**Extra-Help:**

We will be available on Thursdays from 2:20-3:20.

M**aterials**

* Textbook: Prentice-Hall: Exploring Biology. The textbook can be kept at home.
* A 3-ring binder to be used exclusively for the course (1 or 1.5 inches)

Most labs require eye protection. We have goggles available to students. You may purchase your own safety glasses for the less hazardous labs.

**Grading:**

Each assignment is given a point value. To compute your average, simply add all the points earned, divide by the total points possible and multiply by 100.

You will receive grades for tests and quizzes, labs, biology binder checks, class work, homework and projects. Points will be deducted for assignments returned late.

**Homework will not be accepted late**.

**Attendance:**

Missed tests and quizzes will be made up after school or at another mutually convenient time.

Missed labs will be made up or in some cases I will give you the information needed to write the report or an alternative assignment.

Student and parent/guardian:

Please sign the form provided.