

**Instructor** Katie Burns  
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**Biology**  
**Course Syllabus**  
Fall 2018- Spring 2019

Class Cost: \$300/per semester

**Course Purpose and Description** This course provides a detailed introduction to the methods and concepts of general biology. Heavily emphasizing the vocabulary of biology, it provides the student with a strong background in the scientific method, biochemistry, cellular biology, molecular and Mendelian genetics, evolution, dissection, and ecosystems. It also provides an overview of plant, animal, and human anatomy and physiology. This is a year-long course that provides the student with 60 hours of classroom instruction time, including participation in over 40 labs. Student progress and detailed information about assignments will be available to view through Schoology. Students who successfully complete this course will be well-prepared for a university biology course.

**Class Materials**

- Textbook: Holt Biology: 2012 Edition. A free subscription to the online text is given to each student.  
Logon to <http://my.hrw.com/>  
username: burnsbio1819  
password: bio1819
- A 1” binder to hold the teacher supplied lab packet. The lab packet will contain all paper labs, activities, and tests. The binder, with lab packet, must be brought to class each day.
- All students must have a free Schoology account. This is the online program we will use to track all assignments, take regular assessments, submit assignments, and record grades. Use code: QCDJX-GGGFW to add class.

**Expectations** Students are expected to attend classes regularly and arrive to each class on time with their lab binder. Students will be responsible for completing 3-5 hours of assignments outside of class each week. The primary learning opportunity for this course will be through reading the text, watching videos, completing assignments, projects, and taking chapter tests. In class, the opportunities for learning will primarily consist of lectures, discussions, note taking, group activities, and lab experiments. All paper forms of work will be compiled in the class Lab Binder, all grades will be recorded through Schoology

**Grading** Grading is a group effort and will be described in detail in our first class. Since students only spend two hours a week in class, our time will focus on projects and labs while textbook questions and exams will be done at home. Chapter questions will be completed through Schoology, they are automatically graded and recorded. Chapter exams are in paper form and included in the Lab Binder, the answers keys can be found on Schoology. Students should complete exams and then correct any wrong answers. The exam score should be recorded by the overseeing teacher (parent or ES), though this job may be delegated to the student. The exam score will then be communicated to me so I can enter it into the Schoology gradebook. Partnership between student, instructor and the overseeing teacher is essential for the success of the student.

**Point  
Breakdown**

Chapter Questions:	Students will complete the chapter questions on Schoology. Grades are automatically recorded on Schoology. The questions can be attempted multiple times to improve score.	10-30 points each
Exams:	Chapter exams are included in the lab binder. Students should always correct their exams and fix all incorrect answers. Final scores must be submitted to instructor to be added to final gradebook. Scores not submitted will be recorded as a 0 on the gradebook. Late work is excepted.	25 points each
Labs:	Labs are usually done in class but students may have to finish the follow up questions at home. Labs will be graded for participation, effort, and completeness during class time.	5-10 points each
Projects:	There will be at least one project per semester. There will be a research and presentation component.	30 points
Midterm and Final:	Some charter schools have special requirements for midterm and final exams, therefore, I provide the exams but leave the proctoring and recording of the grade to the overseeing teacher.	50 points

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Please Read, Sign, and Return to instructor, Katie Burns:

I have read, understand, and agree to the course expectations. I agree to regularly participate in parent/student/teacher communications. I understand that the instructor will only give grades for the in-class portion of the course work, including all labs and projects, using the online system Schoology. Grading tests (with supplied answer key) will be my responsibility, as the overseeing teacher. Chapter question must be taken on Schoology in order to be auto graded. I understand that, as the primary teacher, I will monitor my student's grade on Schoology no less than once per month. I also understand that if my student's grade falls below a 70%, a student/parent/teacher meeting will be called to help the student get back on track.

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Overseeing teacher (parent or ES)

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Student