**Practical Biology**

Ms. Mattern bmattern@cbsd.org

Ms. Filter efilter@cbsd.org

**Course Description:**

Practical Biology is a problem-based approach to the biological sciences. Students will participate in a variety of learning opportunities: laboratory experiments, cooperative group activities, teacher instruction, internet resources and other forms of assessment. This course discusses topics in cellular chemistry, physiology, energy, and heredity. It is designed for the student who would like a more general understanding of the biological world.

**Textbook:**

 Miller, Kenneth, and Levine, Joseph. *Biology* Boston: Prentice Hall. 2006.

**Grading:**

 Students will be assessed through a variety of methods. Within each unit there will be quizzes to establish the student’s comprehension of current material. All assignments will be evaluated for accuracy, completion and quality. Each unit will conclude with a culminating test that will cover all material from the unit. Grading in this course will be divided into the following three areas.

**Primary Assessment**- Tests, projects or large scale laboratory assignments. Assignments in this category will make up **40%** of the student’s marking period grade.

**Secondary Assessment**- Quizzes, smaller scale laboratory assignments, and large classwork assignments. Assignments in this category will make up **30%** of the student’s marking period grade.

**Support**- Homework and class work will comprise this category. Assignments falling into support will be worth **30%** of the student’s marking period grade.

At the end of each marking period the student’s grade will be averaged together and the percentage will be converted to the corresponding letter grade in accordance with the District’s guidelines. The final grade for the course will be computed in the following manner: Average of **MP1 and MP2 = 90%** and the **District Core Assessments – 10%** of the final grade. Students are able to continue to retest until achieving proficiency on district assessments.

**Classroom Expectations**

All students will….

Report to class on time.

Show respect to everyone in the classroom including all visitors.

Observe all rules of the school as stated in the student handbook.

Complete all work in an honest fashion.

Make up all work missed due to absence in a timely fashion.

Come to class prepared everyday- including notebook, pen, pencil, book and ready to learn.

**Homework and Assignments**

**All** homework will either be **CHECKED** or **GRADED**.

All homework must be handed in and credit will only be given to work that was completed when the student entered the classroom.

Full credit for homework can only be earned on the day the work is due. Work not handed in that day will be scored a **ZERO** (0).

**Completed homework should still be handed in no matter how many points you can earn!!**

Graded assignments can only earn full credit by being handed in at the beginning of the class period they are due!

**Tests and Quizzes**

 All tests will be announced at the beginning of a course of study.

 The majority of quizzes will be announced. There will be some quizzes that are unannounced. Expect at least 1 quiz a chapter- announced or unannounced.

**Absence**

It is the student‘s responsibility to get any missed homework or assignments.

You have as many days as you were absent in order to make up missed work.

If a student misses more than one class period the student needs to meet with me in order to establish due dates for missed work.

**Communication**

 The easiest way for the student and teacher relationship to strengthen is through communication. Communication is key in the classroom. If a student does not understand an assignment or if there is confusion as to when an assignment is due, all you need to do is ask! If I know where you are coming from I can better help you!

**Academic Integrity**

Central Bucks South adheres to a published academic integrity policy. All policies will be enforced as stated in the student handbook. Please review the policy and if you have questions please ask your instructor for clarification.

**Lab Safety**

I agree to follow the laboratory safety agreement as discussed in class. A copy of the agreement can be found on Ms. Mattern’s webpage.

You have read the **POLICIES** and understand what is expected in this course.

**STUDENT SIGNATURE**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do.*

*Attitude determines how well you do it.*
***Lou Holtz***