



East Brunswick Magnet School
Biology w/ Lab, College Prep
Mr. Como
comoj@mcmshnj.net

**COURSE
DESCRIPTION/
OVERVIEW**

This course offers an introduction to the fundamental concepts of biology. Topics include cell structure and function, genetics, evolution, ecology, and an overview of major biological systems. The course integrates inquiry activities and laboratory sessions to provide a comprehensive understanding of biological principles and their applications.

TEXTBOOK

Biology
Prentice Hall, 2002

**REQUIRED
SUPPLIES/
MATERIALS**

- Notebook (1 subject, 3 ring or composition)
- Pencils/Pens
- Highlighter(s)
- Folder(s)
- Chromebook

**GRADING
CATEGORIES/
PERCENTAGES**

50% Assessments

Included:

- Tests
- Quizzes
- Reading assessments
- Any other assignments that are authentic measures of learning

30% Labs & Projects

Included:

- Formal lab write ups
- Pre-lab questions
- Post-lab reflections
- In class projects
- Debates
- Research papers
- Presentations

(Lack of appropriate classroom attire for labs will affect a student's participation as well as the corresponding grade)

20% Formative Tasks

Included:

- Classwork
- Homework
- EdPuzzles
- Worksheets
- WebQuests
- Quizizz

District Policy - [5600](#) Code of Conduct

Students who cheat on a test, plagiarize, misuse AI, or refuse to submit an assignment may suffer a reduced grade due to disqualified work.

**GRADING
SCALE**

Middlesex County Magnet Schools policy [2624](#) - Grading System

A+ 100-98	B+ 89-86	C+ 79-76	D 69-65
A 97-92	B 85-82	C 75-72	F 64 and below
A- 91-90	B- 81-80	C- 71-70	

**CLASSROOM
RULES/
EXPECTATIONS**

- No eating/chewing gum at all times in the classroom
- No cell phone use in the classroom
- Students are not permitted to use any equipment on which they have not been trained
- Any injury including a cut, burn, fall, etc. must be reported immediately to your instructor
- All instructor established safety procedures must be followed at all times.
- All applicable OSHA and PEOSH regulation must be followed
- All required Personal Protective Equipment must be worn during hands-on instruction
- Subject to change as needed with prior notice to students and parents

**MAKE UP
WORK:**

Middlesex County Magnet Schools Board [Policy and Regulation 5200](#)

Students that are absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence. The parent or student is responsible for requesting missed assignments and any assistance required. Teachers will cooperate in the preparation of home assignments for students who anticipate an absence of five or more school days in duration. **Students will be allowed two days to make up missed work for each one day of absence.**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14, a student who is absent from school for observing a religious holiday has the right to take an alternate test or examination that was missed because of the absence provided there is a written excuse of such absence signed by the parent.

Middlesex County Magnet School [Policy 2624](#) - Grading System

If the make-up work is not completed in the time required, a failing grade for the marking period will be given for the assignments that were not completed, which may result in a failing grade for the marking period.

**LATE WORK
POLICY:**

Late work is expected to be submitted within **One Week** of the assignment's original due date. Necessary extensions will only be given through proper communication with the educator. Assignments that fail to be submitted in a timely manner will result in a grade deduction for each day it remains unsubmitted.

AI POLICY

1. AI use is not permitted unless explicitly allowed by the teacher or stated in the assignment instructions. Unauthorized AI use constitutes a violation of policy [5701 Academic Integrity](#).
2. Students may use AI tools to support learning, such as brainstorming ideas, receiving feedback on written work, exploring new concepts, and clarifying content. All uses must align with the intent of the assignment and be teacher-approved.
3. Students must write in their own words for all assignments including essays, lab reports, and portfolio pieces. AI may be consulted for support, but cannot replace original student work unless expressly instructed by the teacher.
4. All use of AI tools must be disclosed and properly cited in [MLA format](#). AI may not be cited as a primary source. Citations must include the AI tool used, and the specific prompt entered.
 - An AI usage statement should be included as an appendix.
 - Any content, ideas, or data not created by the student must be cited using reliable sources such as textbooks, scientific articles, and reputable educational websites.
5. AI-generated work should not constitute the majority of a student's assignment. Substantial reliance on AI will reduce credit and may trigger additional review or disciplinary action.
6. Students must not enter personal, sensitive, or confidential information into any AI system. This includes names, passwords, ID numbers, academic records, or any data protected under FERPA, COPPA, CIPA and District technology use policies.
7. Copy-paste of large text blocks from AI is prohibited. If Google Docs is used, the version history must be enabled to demonstrate the natural progression of student thought.
8. Students' work may be checked with AI detection tools when necessary. Teachers may require oral examinations or rewrites if AI-generated content is suspected.
9. Students should treat anything they input into an AI tool as publicly viewable. Misuse or irresponsible data input will be addressed as a code of conduct violation.

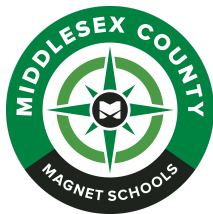
ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY:

[District Policy 5600](#) - Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to engage in instruction without interruptions from any electronic device including but not limited to cell phones, computers, watches, or VR glasses. Devices should be stored in a student's bag or locker unless express permission is provided by the instructor.

Infraction	1st Occurrence	2nd Occurrence	3rd Occurrence
Using an electronic device in an inappropriate manner	2 Administrative detentions	Device confiscated and 3 Administrative detentions	Device confiscated 1 day suspension

**PLEASE RETURN THE NEXT PAGE WITH SIGNATURE BY
9/8/2025 (Monday)**



East Brunswick Magnet School
BIOLOGY SYLLABUS
Mr. Como
comoj@mcmsnj.net

I have read and understood the course policies and expectations.

print student name

student signature

date

parent/guardian signature

date

parent email

parent phone number

Which form of communication is preferred (circle one):

Email

Phone

