***GENETICS DISCLOSURE***

*Mr. Ken Smikahl*

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# Purpose Statement/Philosophy:

Introduction to Human Genetics is a semester, lab based course that will further build upon the concepts covered in General or Honors Biology. This course utilizes concepts learned in Biology and builds on them to investigate the role of chromosomes in our lives.  Studies will begin with a brief review DNA structure, replication, and protein synthesis.  We will also examine types of mutations that lead to different phenotypes. Exploration of more modern genetic topics will follow, such as genetic engineering, cloning, stem cell research, DNA fingerprinting, gene sequencing and bioinformatics. The second quarter will focus on Mendelian and non-Mendelian genetics, heredity, and studies of genetic disorders. Finally, we will have a short unit on population genetics and the connection between genes and evolution. There will be a lot of activities and problem-based learning in this course.

Lab Fee – Fee for this class is $30.00. The fee should be paid in the front office by Jan. 26. Please give me your receipt so I can track payment. Fees are used to purchase materials for lab kits and other supplies used in the laboratory.

**Policies of the Course…**

1. **Attendance/Lateness**
   1. Students will attain maximal academic benefit through regular class attendance. The ideas, concepts, points of view, social development, confidence, and knowledge cannot be replaced when classes are missed.
   2. If students miss class on a quiz or test day (meaning quiz or test is announced prior to students’ absence), they will be expected to make up the assessment during Charger time.
   3. Students are expected to be in the classroom door and ready to work when the bell rings for the start of class.
2. **Evaluation**
   1. Students will be graded on tests, labs, and quizzes. Tests/Quizzes will be worth 50% of the grade and labs/activities will make up the other 50% of the grade.
   2. Students will not be allowed to re-take tests, quizzes, or to redo assignments and labs for credit. However, students will be allowed to use a 3”x5” notecard on all tests. Quizzes will be brief and open note.
3. **Assignments** 
   1. Reading and practice assignments are a must for a successful completion of this course. Although these assignments may not be graded, they are the means of learning new material.
   2. Labs and activities will be graded for understanding. These assignments count as 50% of the grade.
   3. A three ring binder should be maintained for this class. You may organize the binder however you would like.
   4. Homework is to be turned in on time in the “period (5 or 7)” bin, for their appropriate class period, either before class begins or before leaving the classroom. Late work will be accepted up to the day of the test. Any assignments turned in after Mr. Smikahl has graded the assignment, will be given the same score as the student earns on the unit test. However, the assignment must be complete and correct.
4. **Cheating or Plagiarism**
   1. In cases of either cheating or plagiarism, loss of total credit will result on the first infraction. Any additional offenses will be reported to administration.
5. **Materials Needed**
   1. Three ring binder organized as described above (2 inches)
   2. Loose-leaf paper or notebook
   3. Colored Pencils
   4. Open minds!
6. **Extra Help**
   1. I am available during Charger time for extra help and when possible after school hours. It is the student’s responsibility to ask for help.
7. **Classroom Policies/Expectations:**
   1. Students are expected to attend class each day with all their materials and ready to learn!
   2. Students are expected to treat each other & the teacher with respect.
   3. Students must be on time and prepared for class to begin.
   4. Students must be in his or her seat when the bell rings or he/she will be considered late.
   5. Students should never be out of the classroom when I am giving instructions.
   6. Students are expected to respect the lab equipment. The equipment is not to be touched until instructed to do so. Breakage due to accident will not be assessed. Breakage due to neglect will be assessed. Students will not bring *any* food or drink into the classroom.
   7. Personal Electronics may only be used for class appropriate activities. Any other use will result in collection of the device until a parent/guardian contacts me.
   8. Students are expected to do their **own** work.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, received this “Welcome Back” Letter and copy of the syllabus for my student’s science class. I understand all expectations of my student in class and will be sure to contact Ms. Mullin if I have questions via email or with a phone call.

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Any Questions?