**Mr. Groenke’s Syllabus (2017-2018 School Year)**

**Course Title:** Biology

**Course Description:** This course has been restructured to focus on the wide ranges that Biology covers. This class will explore a variety of topics in an effort to give the learner an expanded understanding of the world around them. Visual, auditory, and hands on learning will be implanted throughout this course to ensure your success in this class. This course will follow the outline of Houtman’s Biology Now textbook.

**Teacher:** Mr. Camron Groenke

1. Email: camron.groenke@k12.sd.us Check Daily from 7:45 to 8:30 am.
2. Open classroom hours: 1st and 3rd hour, before school 7:30-7:45 am, or after school 3:30-4:00 pm.

**Course Materials:** a. Textbook- Biology Now by Houtman, Scudellari, Malone, and Singh-Cundy

b. Something to organize class materials (binder, folder, etc.)

c. Something to write on (paper, notebook, etc.)

d. Something to write with (pencil, pen, etc.)

e. Lab notebook and other materials specific to future assignments

f. Note: If any of these are forgotten, you are eligible for a retraining session

**\*All school materials will be properly used and handled with care. Any misuse of the equipment will result in loss of the privilege for the rest of the time, appropriate consequences, and a retraining session. Biology books will be kept in the science classroom unless needed by the student and checked out via myself.**

**Course Goals:**

1. Teach students practical scientific skills, which they can use to investigate, study, and explain the world around them.
2. Create learning that should be challenging yet engineered to create an exciting learning environment in which Biology is fun and related to each of your everyday lives.
3. Enhance critical thinking skills and reflect student interests and questions.

**Student and Teacher Behaviors**

**Classroom behavior**

Students will treat each other with respect and work together without any conflicts. If any conflicts do arise please make sure to ask for my assistance and we will develop a plan to effectively address the issue. I hope everyone can make each other feel safe and confident to fully participate in class in front of their peers.

When entering and exiting the room, remain respectful and be quiet and orderly. Take your assigned seat and immediately begin on the bellringer and copy down the objective and agenda for the day. Cell phones are NOT allowed in my class and if found they will be confiscated until the end of day and you will be subject to a retraining session. During instruction or class discussion please be respectful to others and do not interrupt or talk while others are talking. Violation will result in retraining as well.

**Substitute Teacher Behavior Expectations**

I expect everyone to treat the substitute teacher with the dignity and respect we hold in our classroom at all times. Even though I am gone, I do not expect our classroom beliefs to change. If any problems do arise, the sub will fill out a behavior report form to leave for myself and the office. I will call the sub after the school day to investigate how the day went. Any misbehavior will be dealt with through retraining and an action plan meeting.

**Cheating**

Cheating is a form of disrespect that will not be tolerated in this classroom. Plagiarism is considered a form of cheating as well. Cheating shows disrespect to me because you believe the test, project, or assignment was not worth your time or effort. It also shows disrespect for yourself and others because you do not value your own education and you are taking advantage of other people’s hard work. Cheating will require appropriate action and consequences. Possible conferences with parents will be held to discuss the situation. Retraining WILL occur following any form of cheating.

**Retraining**

Retraining results from any misbehavior, misuse of equipment, or incompetence with school or classroom procedures. Retraining MUST be completed with me at a time that is convenient to you, the student. Retraining will continue until the correct behavior is accomplished.

**\*No warnings will be given for misbehavior, retraining will occur on the student’s time.**

**Assignments**

1. Assignments will always be relevant to the material being studied and will be given out fairly to each individual student. Choices may be given over what option of homework to be completed and what days homework will be given out to the students.
2. Homework MUST be completed and turned in to the hand-in box at the beginning of class on each due date. If this cannot be done, you may contact me BEFORE the due date to discuss an appropriate plan of action during any of my open hours.
3. If assignments are incomplete or not turned in you will be invited to a retraining session and the work MUST be completed when you arrive. Assignments will drop one point each day it is late.
4. Reading assignments should be completed by the due date provided and students should be prepared to discuss the reading in class.
5. Major projects will be given each quarter. Status reports will be given to gauge how far along each student is to ensure the successful completion of the projects. Any concerns that arise during the course of these projects may be directed to me and appropriate plans will be made.

**Tests**

Each test will cover the section that was covered previously. Plan on taking a chapter test following each chapter and a semester test at the end of each semester. Tests will require studying so please put in the effort to succeed on these tests. A certain number of questions will reflect questions that you feel should be asked on the tests in an effort to help you have a choice in the test making process. Tests will be completed within the class period; if any issues should arise we will discuss appropriate actions. If a test is missed, it will be made up the following day as soon as the student and I work out an arranged time. I will not accept failure as an option; students will be given the opportunity to correct their wrong answers on their own to earn up to half of the points back. Online exams will be done on your own device and during my class time unless prior arrangements have been made. It is expected that you stay in the testing window at all times. Failure to do so will result in failure of the test and a retraining session. If any concerns arise about the test, please talk to me in an effort to put you in the best chance to succeed.

**Attendance**

Attendance is crucial to the success of my class. Class discussions will occur daily and is very important you are present and participate each day. Daily attendance and participation will account for a small percentage of your final grade in my class.

If you know that you will be absent, you need to make the appropriate arrangements with me BEFORE the day you will be gone. It is important to get all of the assignments and materials that you will need so that you are not left behind when you return. If you have an unplanned absence you need to contact me as soon as you return so that you can get any of the material or assignments you missed. It is not my responsibility to get you caught up, it is YOUR responsibility and I will hold you accountable.

If you are tardy to my class you must have a pass from another teacher, administrator, or staff. If you do not have a pass you will be marked tardy and that will result in a retraining session when you are available.

**Grading Procedure**

My grading scale for Biology:

* I implement a point system for grading in this class. Tests and projects will range from 30 to 50 points, while semester tests are 100 points. Daily assignments are worth 10 to 15 points. Quizzes are worth 15 to 20 points. All points are subject to variation depending on the given assignment/quiz/test. Attendance and participation are worth 5 points and will be supplied at the end of each quarter.

Viborg-Hurley grading scale is as follows:

A= 93% and above

B= 86-92%

C= 78-85%

D= 70-77%

F= Less than 70%

**\*Extra Credit opportunities will be offered to the entire class throughout the year.**

**Labs**

This class will involve a variety of labs that may involve dangerous equipment and/or chemicals. It is important to know lab safety and know how to use all safety equipment. Misbehavior will NOT be tolerated in the lab in an order to keep everyone safe and protected. ANY misbehavior will result in a conference with me and retraining will occur. (Please see lab safety contract)

**Emergency Situations**

* All emergency protocols MUST be followed to ensure the safety of all students. Know proper safety procedures for fire drills, severe weather, intruders, lab accidents, etc. Follow all instructions by the teacher. Failure to do so could result in harm of fellow students and proper discipline will be sought for failure to follow procedures during an emergency situation.

**Topics**

We will cover a variety of topics in this class including cells, genetics, evolution, zoology, anatomy, physiology, ecology, and conservation. These topics may be controversial and I would like to let all guardians know that these materials will be available in the school and local libraries for you to view as you wish. If any concerns arise please contact me to discuss appropriate action with your child.

\*Your signature signifies that you have read and understand the syllabus for Mr. Groenke’s Biology Course. If you or your parents have any question please feel free to contact me so we can discuss them immediately. Thank you for your time and I look forward to a successful and fun year with everyone!

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Students Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents Contact Information (If I need to contact you about your child):

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* **I, as your teacher, will teach every student with dignity and respect. I will treat each of you fairly, but not equally. I will respect each of you and will not discuss other students with you, only matters that concern you. I promise that I will do everything that I can to help you succeed in this class. Feel free to come to me with any concerns or questions and I will be happy to assist you to the best of my abilities. Our classroom will be a place to facilitate learning and a place where everyone is treated with the respect they deserve. I will develop a classroom that is orderly, predictable, and safe for everyone. I plan to uphold the Viborg-Hurley school district mission, “Empowering our students to succeed in an ever changing world.”**

**Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**