

Dear Student and Parent,

It is a pleasure to assist you in your high school education. Genetics and Zoology are semester courses that together, make up the tenth grade year of Humanitas science. The fall semester will be dedicated to principles of genetics, and will include units on meiosis, classical genetics, molecular genetics, and genetic engineering. The spring semester of zoology will cover taxonomy, animal group characteristics, physiology, and environmental issues that confront populations of organisms. The courses will incorporate all state and district standards, as well as El Camino Real’s Expected School-wide Learning Results (E.S.L.R.’s).

CLASS RULES:

1. Students will be in their seat on time and ready to work when the bell rings.
2. Students are responsible for having all class materials (materials, homework, etc.).
3. No food or drink in class. Bottled water is permitted. Do not bring water to lab counters.
4. No electronic devices in class (cell phones, MP3 players, video games). Cell phones are not to be seen or heard. They must be put away *and turned off*.
5. Be respectful of fellow students and our learning environment.

GRADING POLICY:

All grades are determined on a point system. Grading is based on class participation, dispatches, quizzes, tests, homework, and laboratory investigations. Final semester grades are determined by the approximate percentage breakdown:

90% = A ; 80% = B ; 70% = C ; 55% = D ; <55% = F

CLASS MATERIALS:

Students are expected to have all class materials with them at their desks each day. Students should have: 1) a 3-ring binder with paper ; 2) composition notebooks for agendas, warm-ups, and book projects; 3) ruler ; 4) scientific calculator; 5) blue/black & red ball-point pens *and* pencils; 6) colored pencils; 7) covered textbook; 8) a pouch for your binder to hold items; 9) highlighter; 10) index cards; 11) min-stapler (recommended).

PROCEDURES:

1. There will be an agenda and warm-up at the start of each period. Students should start class working *quietly* and *independently* in their composition notebook.
2. No late work is accepted unless with an excused absence (please see me if you have extraordinary circumstances).
3. When a student is absent, he/she is responsible for missed assignments. (Agendas missed should be copied into composition notebook.)
4. Keep desk/lab area clean. No food or drink in class. Do not leave trash.
5. Students should obtain an ECR computer account during the first two weeks of school.
6. Homework and other assignments are important to the curriculum. Homework will be assigned approximately three times each week. These assignments will always be posted in class and/or on the classroom website at: <http://ecrhs.net/staff/dsodek>. Students are also expected to spend time at home reading assigned material, completing labs, and reviewing for quizzes and tests.

I am looking forward to a very successful year. If you have any questions about the course or your student’s progress please call the school or visit the classroom website at <http://ecrhs.net/staff/dsodek>.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sodek

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Student Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Student Signature: _____