WEEK 1 (Dec. 3) – Teambuilding/Introduction to Biology
A.M. – Pretest and teambuilding activities to get to know each other.
P.M. – Introduction to biology, learn Greek & Latin terms, review scientific method, and begin discussion of our semester-long individual projects

WEEK 2 (Dec. 10) – Chemistry of Biology/Cells/Microscopes
A.M. – Atoms, molecules, ionic bonds, covalent bonds
P.M. – Begin discussion of cells, start using microscopes

WEEK 3 (Dec. 17) – Cells/Mitosis and Meiosis
A.M. – Differences and similarities of animal cells and plant cells
P.M. – Mitosis and Meiosis

WEEK 4 (Jan. 7) – Genetics
Punnett Squares, ratios, dominant and recessive traits, phenotype, genotype, karyotype, DNA. We’ll even do a DNA extraction.

WEEK 5 (Jan. 14) – Classification
What is classification? Who came up with it? How are living things classified? How do you make and use a dichotomous key?

WEEK 6 (Jan. 21) – Single-Celled Organisms
We’ll find living single-celled organisms around our campus (as well as in samples you bring from home). Using microscopes, we’ll identify and classify these organisms.

WEEK 7 (Jan. 28) – Fungi
What’s so fun about Fungi? We’ll learn what makes up a fungus, search for and identify fungus on the 4-H Center campus, and grow our own fungus.

WEEK 8 (Feb. 4) – Plants
What makes a plant a plant? How are plants divided? What is the difference between monocots and dicots? We’ll use plants on our campus in our learning.

WEEK 9 (Feb. 11) – Animals
We’ll study the characteristics of kingdom Animalia. We will also, compare and contrast vertebrate and invertebrate classes.

WEEK 10 (Feb. 18) – Dissection
Today we will continue our study of animals by doing several dissections. Tentative dissections are: crayfish, frog, and demonstration fetal pig dissection.
WEEK 11 (Feb. 25) – Presentations
Each student will give a presentation of their semester-long project to their fellow biology classmates.

WEEK 12 (March 4) – Final Test/Wrap-up
Students will take the Final Test today. This will be the same test they took at the beginning of the semester. We will spend the rest of the day wrapping up our semester and enjoying our last class together.

Microscope Work. We will use microscopes often. The goal is for each student to become proficient in using a microscope, preparing a slide, and differentiating objects on the slide.

In-class Plant Project. Each student will have an ongoing, in-class project. We will begin this project after the holiday break.

Be prepared for the weather. We will be outside many days for at least part of the day. It is expected that you will dress appropriately for cold or wet weather.

Grade given at the end of the semester. Each student will receive a grade for the class. Grades will be based upon final test grade (40% of final grade), class participation (10%), quizzes (15%), semester project paper (20%), project presentation (15%). You will be able to check your child’s grade throughout the semester through your personal account on www.engrade.com (I will email you an account link.)

Pictures & Weekly report. I’ll post pictures and a report of our weekly activities to our “SEEK Biology” facebook group. https://www.facebook.com/groups/SEEKBiology/ (I will also post the weekly report to the Engrade classroom.)

I’m looking forward to our semester! If you ever have any questions just give me a call, e-mail me, or message me on facebook or Engrade.

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