

# Biology

Dear parents,

A new school year is upon us and your child is now in high school and a lot is expected of them. Freshman will have a STAAR test this year. The STAAR test has an end-of-course test that covers the curriculum for the whole year. Students will be expected to master the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Biology and pass the STAAR test which covers the TEKS. These TEKS will be handed out to each student and should be kept in their notebooks. The class will look at these TEKS as we start a new objective and as we prepare for the test over that objective to make sure they understand the information.

A large portion of the science curriculum includes investigations such as experimentation and observations. Since this constitutes a large portion of the curriculum, there are several lab rules that have to be followed for everyone's safety. If a student cannot follow these rules, he/she will not be able to participate. If a student is not following the lab rules, and has to sit out from the lab, that student will get a zero for the lab. My goal is that all students are able to participate, but the safety of all students comes first. I have sent home a lab contract for parents to sign. No student will be allowed to participate in labs unless a parent/guardian has signed the contract and the student has passed a lab safety test.

My grading policy and homework policy follows:

## GRADING POLICY

Homework grades	50%
Weekly quiz grades	20%
Test grades	30%

## HOMEWORK POLICY

<u>Time turned in</u>	<u>highest grade</u>
on time	100
one day late	75
two days late	50
Three or more	0

Since tests and quizzes count for 50% of the grade, please make sure your child studies for these. If the student receives two zeroes, they will be sent to the office as a discipline referral.

I will be using the school's web page to post assignments and test dates for parents and students to keep track of upcoming due dates. To find this web page, go to the school's website at [www.rlisd.net](http://www.rlisd.net). Click on "Jr High – high school". Then click on "faculty and staff", and click on my name. Click on the correct period to find the class for assignments. My email address is also on that page if you need to email me.

If your child needs extra help, we can set up a time during corral for help. Students can also come on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:40 – 4:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [lara.gott@rlisd.net](mailto:lara.gott@rlisd.net) or call the school office at 453-4555 extension 205.

Looking forward to a great year,

Lara Gott

I have read the parent letter and have found your web page on [www.risd.net](http://www.risd.net) .

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Parent signature