Welcome to Biology. I’m Mrs. Acker. This is my second year at North Hall. I taught many of you in Environmental Science last year. I’m glad to see you again.

In Biology this year, we will be learning about cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, and organisms. You will need to have a three ring binder for this class. Make sure you have 10 dividers. Pockets would be great. It will give you a place to keep foldables and projects that can’t be punched.

We will have a Fact of the Day and an Essential Question. Write down the fact and the question every day as soon as you get to your seat. If you can’t answer the question before class, you should be able to answer it after class. Keep these in your notebook.

We will have an open notebook quiz every Monday. Anything that should be in your notebook can be on the quiz. It is important that you keep your notebook organized and up to date.

If you miss class, you are responsible for getting any make up work. Any handouts will be in the folder at the front of the room. The EQ and FOD will be on my lesson plan on the white board. If you were absent, you may get the EQ and FOD from my lesson plan.

The white board closest to the door is your best friend! You can check to see when the next test is, see what homework you have, and know what we will be doing each day. So no one needs to ask me, “What are we doing today?” It’s all right here.

Sign up for REMIND 101! I will be using it for the first time this year. I think it will be a great tool.

I will give you ample time to complete most of your work in class. If class work is not completed, it becomes homework. Depending on your classroom effort, it may be counted as late. Don’t put off doing classwork because you think you will do it at home. Do it in class! I don’t like too much homework. You will occasionally have homework if it is needed to reinforce concepts learned in class. Just because you don’t have assigned homework, doesn’t mean you get a free pass. Biology requires a lot of work. You WILL need to study. Waiting until the night before the test will not cut it. If you need worksheets to help you study, I can provide them.

I will accept late work. Late work will have an automatic 10% deduction. If you make arrangements with me and turn it in on before the prearranged deadline, you will only have a 10% deduct. No arrangements = 10% per day deduct. All late work must be COMPLETE to get credit – no partial work.

If you do better on a Unit Test than you did on a Chapter Test, Quiz, or other assignment - I will give you the higher score for the other work. Test grades can replace quiz grades, quiz grades can replace daily work grades, etc.

If you are given a 0 for cheating – it stays a 0 and you will face additional consequences. All 0 grades can be changed by completing a substantial project. You will have 1 opportunity and no more. “Sharing” information in the computer lab is considered cheating. There will be assignments where you work in teams, but if you are to work on your own – it needs to be your own work.

No food or sugary drinks! I had a problem with rats and ants last year because I allowed food in the room. They are gone and I don’t want them back. If you are really hungry and need a snack. You may eat it quickly outside the glass door. I will not count you tardy if you ask me first. For those of you that were in my class last year, what do I think about bottled water? Right – bad for the environment, bad for your health and the health of others, and bad for your wallet. Bring a refillable container of some kind. If you must use plastic water or soda bottles – RECYCLE!!

Our recycling bin is under this desk. Put paper, plastic, and glass in there. NO FOOD! Empty your bottles before you put them in there. We have sinks!

DO not use the sinks for anything other than washing your hands and disposing of liquids. They are NOT trash receptacles. They are not your locker.

Stay out of the drawers and cabinets in the back. Don’t touch anything on my desk. Don’t take things from my lab bench without permission. Violation may result in an Administrative Referral. There is a pencil sharpener, hole punch, stapler and tape on this desk for your use. There is also a folder for work with no name. If you think you turned in an assignment, but you have a 0, check to see if you forgot to put your name on it.

If you need to use the restroom, let me know. Take the pass and write your name on the sign out board. If I’m teaching – wait (unless it is a real emergency) until we are doing independent or group work. If you need to go someplace else, check with me, write down your name and destination on the sign out board.

We will be using this textbook this year. You do not have to check one out. You may check one out of you want to. I suggest that you check out a CD. We will have a class set of books, you do not need to bring your book to class each day. Book / CD check out will be next week.

You may use either door to enter and leave the room. During the winter, on very cold days, I will ask you not to use the glass door. I will put a sign on the door on those days.

That’s it for today. I think we will have a very good year. I’m glad you’re here and I’m here. Any questions?