**Mr. Russillo Honors Genetics ’23-’24**

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**MATERIALS**

All students will need each of the following, each day in class:

1. **Small composition book for Daily Journal**. This book is **not** to be “time-shared” with other classes. (I do not collect journals, but students are responsible for obtaining missing entries upon returning from an absence.)
2. Obviously **paper, pencil** **and/or any pen with ink that is dark enough to read.** Avoid using red ink if you can; I use red often. (Have a decent set of colored pencils—if you prefer them to my beat-up class sets and crayons—for drawing assignments, of which there will be several.)
3. A **loose-leaf notebook**/**trapper** in which you will store all the work for each quarter. Feel free to share this binder with other classes. I do not *plan*to collect notebooks for grades, but *diligent organization is its own reward*.
4. **Textbooks.** *I’m not planning to assign textbooks* but if you like (or your parents insist! ☺) I **can** issue you a book. **DO NOT REMOVE A TEXTBOOK FROM THE ROOM UNLESS it’s yours or you’ve borrowed it from me PERSONALLY*.*** Note: Borrowing a book is like being issued a copy for a day: **if you damage or lose it, you will get a bill in June, and if you’re a senior they won’t let you walk until you pay it.** When you return a book, HAND IT TO ME (here’s that word again…) PERSONALLY. Do not leave it on a room table or on my desk where someone else could walk off with it, sticking you with the bill.

**QUARTER AVERAGE YEAR GRADING**   
Tests /Quizzes 65% The 4 quarter averages and the final exam are each 20% of the final course

Classwork/Labs 25% grade. If you exempt the final, the quarter averages are then worth 25% each.

Daily Journal 10%

* 1. **Classwork assignments handed in late are HALF CREDIT, whether 1 second late or 45 days late.** Neither of these numbers is an exaggeration. **I do take late work all quarter long,** right until 4:30 pm on the final day of the grading period. *Again: late penalty is 50%.*
  2. **Q: Should I turn in a classwork assignment on time but incomplete? Or finish it and hand it in late?**

**A:** If you’re more than half done, turn it in on time. If you’re not half done finish it completely and turn it

in late but *complete*. Do NOT hand a late assignment incomplete! Late work is half credit, so once you know

something will be late, take your time, do it right, finish it decently (if it’s REALLY late, answer keys are often posted! Wink-wink, nudge nudge!) and get the 50. Because a late 70, for example, becomes a 35! Blecch!

*As per school policy, quizzes and tests can be made up all quarter long for full credit.*

* 1. **Itemized grade reports** (what used to be called interims) are available at any time on PowerSchool of course, but if you like I’ll print one off—or email a pdf—any time during the year.

**PHONES**

**I don’t collect phones, YOU DO. When you walk in, pretend every day is quiz day and zip your phone into a backpack, pocket, something zippable/sealable\*.** Most days they’ll only be zipped for the time it takes to discuss the daily journal, and then they’re released, and you can use them to work on the day’s assignment. BUT, if you take your phone out too early? THAT’S what that ugly ol’ phone bag is for: A full class period in the penalty bag! If you get the penalty bag three times? You lose all phone privileges for the remainder of the quarter; you’d have to put your phone in the bag upon entering the room. (\*The exception to zipping it up is, you can charge it on the back counter, but it must remain there charging until phones are released.) *continued* 🡪

- - - - - - - - - SIGN, CLIP & RETURN WHAT’S BELOW. KEEP WHAT’S ABOVE IN YOUR NOTEBOOK - - - - -

**STUDENT**: I have read the classroom expectations, understand them, and will honor them in Mr. R’s class!

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Print name Signature Date Period

**PARENT/GUARDIAN**: I have discussed the classroom expectations with my child. I understand and support them!

Print name Signature Date Period

**CONDUCT/DEPORTMENT**

**Students are expected to be in seats *as the tardy bell rings*, with all materials mentioned on page one.**

- COMMON COURTESY OBTAINS! If I—or a classmate, or a guest speaker—has the floor, please raise hand to speak or to do anything that involves getting out of seat. When we’re doing groupwork—which you’ll find is most days—chatting and moving about are not only permitted but encouraged!

- Come to class PREPARED (See Materials section on page one!)

- My food/drink policy is relatively relaxed. Light snacks are OK but **NO HOT FOOD and DEFINITELY NO TAKE-OUT**. If you bring a sack of Chick-Fil-A or any other take-out into my room—or have a friend deliver one?—it will remain on my desk, cooling, until the end of the period. ••• **THE ONLY EXCPETION TO THIS RULE IS ADDRESSED THUSLY**: did you bring enough for everyone? YOU DID? THEN WE’RE EATING. PERIOD. (Seriously, if you’re generous enough to bring for everyone? You barely have to ask and I’m like: “Yup!”)

**HALL PASSES**

**Q. “Mr R, Can I: use the bathroom? …call my mom/boss/doctor?”**

**A1.** During a class change? Of course. It’s your time. You don’t need to ask. (…and yet people ALWAYS DO! Look. If you ask me during a class change if you can do something for which class changes exist*,* you’re not asking permission to do the thing, *you’re asking if you may be tardy*. You may not. If you DO ask any of the foregoing questions, my answer, invariably, will be: **“Don’t be tardy.”**)

**A2.** During class? Generally yes, but consider:

You get three hall passes a quarter, but—as per school policy—none during the first or final ten minutes of class. HALL PASSES ARE ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES. If it can wait, seriously let it wait. If I see you talking on your phone during class I ***won’t*** tell you to hang up but I ***will*** a) point out into the hall, where you should go to continue your conversation, and b) count it as a hall pass.

**CLASS PHILOSOPHY**

**This course is an elective survey of basic genetics and genomics**. Yes, we will have assignments and quizzes and activities and grades yadda yadda, but frankly that’s not me at my best. My class really finds its legs, really comes out of its shell so to speak (twice) **when you bring your questions from home and we talk about them as a class.** I’m not kidding; Every day will start with a journal question that can take me ten minutes to check and discuss…or…we could blow the entire period\* with you guys peppering me with questions about the human body, the human condition, and life as we know it. I’ve walked this planet for almost six decades; I have WAY more to offer you than facts you could find in a book or google at any time. You like trying to get teachers off-topic? OFF-TOPIC IS MY PRIMARY ADDRESS, JACK. Do it. ***day***. That awkward question about a brown-eyed kid having two blue-eyed parents? Questions about whether humans were ever cross-bred with chimps? Questions you’re not sure you should ask? ASK. This is *school* for Pete’s sake; If you can’t ask the questions you’re really curious about here, then WHAT ON EARTH IS THE POINT? (BTW—and this is more of a hold-over from astronomy class, but still—if you make a scientific claim in class? Be prepared to defend that claim *compellingly*. **And be now apprised: “I saw it** **on the internet,” is not only not compelling, it’s not even a defense; You might as well say “I know it’s true because this stranger told me on a street corner.”)**

(\*re Blowing the entire period. Doesn’t happen often but it’s possible: We look up after what we think is 15-20 min of chatting and there are only 5 min left in class. “Um, did we just spend the *entire class* *talking*?” “Yes we did…*because we’re awesome*.” 😉 )

**QUITE TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**

…though, truth be told—and I hate to say it—fourth quarter is usually a lot thinner, especially if we’ve had several snow days in winter.

**1st Quarter 2nd Quarter 3rd Quarter 4th Quarter**

Ch. 1: Meet Your Textbook Ch. 5: To Mendel, and Beyond! Ch. 9: Expression/Epigenetics Ch. 13: Immunity

Ch. 2: Cell/Meiosis Review Ch. 6: Sex-Linked Traits Ch. 10: Mutation Ch. 14: Genetic Testing

Ch. 3: Single Gene Inheritance Ch. 7: Multifactorial vs Polygenic Ch. 11: Chromosomes Ch. 15: Reproductive Tech.

Ch. 4: To Mendel, and Beyond! Ch. 8: From DNA to Protein Ch. 12: Ancestry/Evolution Ch. 16: Genomics

*[1st qtr test, counts 3 quizzes] [2nd qtr test, counts 3 quizzes] [3rd qtr test, counts 3 quizzes]* *[No quarter test]*

**FINAL EXAM:**If you don’t exempt the final exam (most students do exempt) it’s worth 20% of the final grade (Half the questions are 4th quarter stuff since there’s no 4th quarter test, the other half is mix of 1st semester & 3rd quarter; *Exam study guide counts as a 4th quarter quiz but is optional if you’re exempting*.)  *(8/23)*

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*(back of slip)*