

Biology Standards Based Learning

The goal of standards based learning in biology is to have students learn, and get to a level of proficiency on the Minnesota State Science Standards. Standards are broken down into essential questions (EQs), and students will be assessed on these essential questions for each biology unit. Students will also be assessed on their proficiency of the terminology and vocabulary associated with the Minnesota State Science Standards for each unit.

- Students will take part in Learning Opportunities in class and as homework. The purpose of these Learning Opportunities is for students to practice and understand the scientific concepts that are associated with the State Science Standards and the EQs.
- Individual grades or points will not be given to the Learning Opportunities since this is the time to learn and practice material covered in class. Feedback will be given so that students can learn from any mistakes or misconceptions. Learning Opportunities are used to strengthen the students' skills.
- Some learning opportunities will be required. No points are given for the Learning Opportunities but are required as part of the learning process. All students will be need to complete these required Learning Opportunities in order to earn a unit grade of proficiency. Other Learning Opportunities are optional and will allow students to have additional practice or receive more information on those EQs in which they feel they have not yet reached a level of proficiency for the unit assessment.
- A student is said to be proficient if 80% is achieved on the unit assessment for **each** of the essential questions, and proficient on the terminology/vocabulary assessment if 80% is achieved.
- If a student is not proficient on one or more essential questions, or the terminology/vocabulary assessment, the student may be re-assessed on those essential questions after completing a reassessment plan and some additional learning opportunities. The goal is for students to get to a level of proficiency.
- Re-assessment can be completed in class up to the end date of the unit. This date will be posted in class and on the biology calendar. After the end date of the unit, students can still complete reassessments before or after school by making arrangements with the biology teacher.
- Students who achieve a level of proficiency on the unit can then work "Beyond" the level of proficiency, or "Above and Beyond". Students will go more in depth in these self guided learning opportunities to gain further knowledge and understanding of the biological concepts and ideas associated with the unit State Science Standards and EQs.
- Student will earn a letter grade for each unit completed (see below). Students can work on biology units until the last week of each quarter to achieve proficiency, 'Beyond' proficiency, or 'Above and Beyond' proficiency. At the end of the quarter, unit letter grades will be averaged to determine the letter grade earned for that quarter.

Grading for Biology Standards Based Learning Units

C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students has demonstrated their proficiency of knowledge by obtaining a minimum of 80% on the assessment for each of the unit EQs • The student has achieved a level of 80% on the unit terminology/vocabulary assessment • The student has completed all required learning opportunities
C-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students has demonstrated their proficiency of knowledge by obtaining a minimum of 80% on the assessment for each of the unit EQs • The student has achieved a level of 80% on the unit terminology/vocabulary assessment • The student has NOT completed all required learning opportunities
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student has completed all required learning opportunities • The student has NOT reached 80% on the assessment for each of the EQs and/or the terminology/vocabulary assessment, but reassessment has been completed
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student has NOT completed all learning opportunities • The student has NOT reached 80% on the assessment for each of the EQs and/or the terminology/vocabulary assessment, and reassessment has NOT been completed

Above and Beyond Proficiency

B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student has achieved proficiency (C) level for the unit • The student has gone “Beyond” the basic level of learning, choosing a Learning Opportunity from a list of possible choices provided by the biology teacher. • The grade of B+, B, or B- may can be earned based upon the level of understanding, quality, and successful learning demonstrated in the Learning Opportunity
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student has achieved proficiency (C) level for the unit • The student has successfully completed a “Beyond” level Learning Opportunity at a B/B+ level • The student has gone “Above and Beyond” the basic level of learning, choosing a Learning Opportunity from a list of possible choices provided by the biology teacher. • The grade of A or A- may can be earned based upon the level of understanding, quality, and successful learning demonstrated in the Learning Opportunity