



# Adam Novajovsky

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### CLASSES TAUGHT:

Anatomy, Advanced Anatomy and Genetics, Biology, Physical Science, Environmental Science

### ABOUT ME:

I graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington with a degree in Biology/Pre-med, and then after some soul searching decided to eschew medical school to pursue a degree in teaching. I earned my Masters of Education from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and after a few years out there returned to my home state of Michigan to teach here at Foley.

In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I also coach the girl's tennis team, run the Ski and Snowboard Club, and moderate the Medical Science Club here at Foley.

### GRADING POLICY

I utilize total points in my class. Homework assignments are usually between 5-10 points, quizzes 20-50 points, and tests typically range from 60-100 points. I mainly grade homework based on completion, so as long as students are putting in effort and completing homework on time, they should get most of those available points each semester.

### HOMEWORK/LATE WORK POLICY

Some work is done on Google Classroom, while some work is done on paper. Students are always notified of due dates verbally, digitally, and they are written the whiteboard in class. All late work is considered missing and a zero until turned in. Once turned in, the student can earn a maximum of half points on that assignment. I offer students 1 late pass per semester, which gives the student a 24 grace period to turn an assignment in late for no penalty (does not apply to projects or labs).

### HOW CAN A STUDENT SUCCEED IN YOUR CLASS?

In my opinion, doing well in my class comes down to 3 things.

#### Preparation

If a student is prepared for class with their homework done, they are already off to a good start. I view homework as preparation for quizzes, tests, and projects. Students who do all their homework, as well as prepare for tests by studying ahead of time instead of cramming, consistently score higher than those who try to "wing it" instead of being prepared.

#### Organization

Students who are organized find class so much easier. Less missing work, lost assignments, and notes are easier to study from. Students do not need to be organizational experts, but developing a system that works for them makes a world of difference. Especially for freshman and sophomores.

#### Communication

If a student needs help or has a question, they need to feel comfortable enough and confident enough to do so. At the high school level I expect my students to advocate for themselves. We are trying to prepare them for college and beyond, where self advocacy is vital since they will be on their own. Asking for help in science if needed is important since science builds on itself as the year goes on. You need to know the past material to understand the next material. Too often a student falls behind and never seeks help and the struggles only get harder.

### BEST WAY TO CONTACT YOU/COMMUNICATE

I primarily communicate via email, where I can be found via [novajovsky@bishopfoley.org](mailto:novajovsky@bishopfoley.org).

Students are updated via Google Classroom for any necessary communication.

