

**Psychology I**  
**Brentsville District High School**  
**Mr. MacDonald**  
**Curriculum Overview**

Parents and Students,

You will find below the state standards and list of topics in our course of study this year. I will be posting enrichment activities for students to work through/review if they wish. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Part A.** *Unit titles and course material covered August 26, 2019 to March 12, 2020*

- Unit 1: Introduction to Psychology
  - Chapter 1
  - Ethics in Psychology
  - Research Methods Project
- Unit 2: Biological Approach
  - Chapters 2 and 3
  - Core Studies: Dematte, Dement and Kleitman, Schachter and Singer
- Unit 3: Cognitive Approach
  - Chapters 6 and 7
  - Core Studies: Andrade, Laney
- Unit 4: Learning Approach (introduced March 12, not completed)
  - Chapter 5
  - Chapters 9 (introduced 3/12) and 12 (not yet covered)
  - Core Studies: Bandura, Pepperberg, Saavedra and Silverman (not yet covered)
  -

**Part B.** *Specific State Standards covered from August 26, 2019 to March 12, 2020.*

**Theme / Topic: Introduction to Psychology and Research Methods**

- 1.1 Examine the history and development of psychology as an empirical science.
- 1.2 Identify the different psychological approaches to exploring behavior and mental processes.
- 1.3 Identify the different subfields within Psychology.
- 1.4 Examine different strategies for studying behavior and mental processes.
- 1.5 List and explain the elements of an experiment in psychological research including statistical reporting and ethical guidelines.

**Theme / Topic: Biology and Behavior**

- 2.1 Explain how messages are transmitted by neurons, and describe the functions of the spinal cord and the peripheral nervous system.
- 2.2 Identify the major structures of the brain, and explain the function of each structure.
- 2.3 Identify the hormones secreted by the major glands of the endocrine system and the role each one plays.

**Theme / Topic: Sensation and Perception**

- 4.1 Distinguish between sensation and perception, and explain how they contribute to an understanding of our environment.
- 4.2 Describe the operation of sensory systems.
- 4.3 Summarize the laws of sensory perception.

**Theme / Topic: Consciousness**

- 5.1 Analyze the different states of consciousness.
- 5.2 Identify the stages of sleep and various sleep disorders.
- 5.3 Examine the theories associated with dreaming.
- 5.4 Examine the phenomena of hypnosis.
- 5.5 Analyze the role psychoactive drugs have on the body and brain.

**Theme / Topic: Learning**

- 6.1 Explain the principles of Classical Conditioning, and describe some of its applications.
- 6.2 Explain the principles of operant conditioning, and describe some of its applications.
- 6.3 Discuss cognitive factors in learning, including latent learning and observational learning.

**Theme / Topic: Memory**

- 7.1 Examine the biological basis of memory.
- 7.2 Analyze the process by which information is encoded in the brain as a memory.
- 7.3 Analyze the three ways in which new memories are stored.
- 7.4 Identify the different models of memory.
- 7.5 Examine the processes for retrieving memories.
- 7.6 List and explain the strategies for improving memory.

**Theme / Topic: Intelligence and Thinking**

- 8.1 Examine the different theories of intelligence.
- 8.2 Examine the history of IQ test development.
- 8.3 Explain the purposes of reliability and validity as it pertains to IQ tests.
- 8.4 List and explain unusual mental abilities, including mental retardation, learning disabilities and giftedness.
- 8.5 Identify the functions involved in the process known as thought.
- 8.6 List and explain the different ways that the brain organizes thought.
- 8.7 Examine reasoning, problem solving, and decision-making as processes of thought.
- 8.8 Analyze creative thinking as an alternative thinking process.
- 8.9 Analyze the use of creative thinking as a process of problem solving.
- 8.10 Explain obstacles to problem solving and decision-making.

**Theme / Topic: Motivation and Emotion**

- 9.1 Describe one or more theories of motivation, such as expectancy value, cognitive dissonance, arousal, Maslow's hierarchy of needs and drive reduction.
- 9.2 Describe the hunger drive, and analyze the causes of obesity.
- 9.3 Explain stimulus motives, the balance theory and achievement motivation.
- 9.4 Describe three theories of emotion.