**Unit 3 Cell Vocabulary Definitions**

1. Cell membrane – double-layer of phospholipids that forms a boundary between a cell and the surrounding environment and controls the passage of materials into and out of a cell.
2. Cell theory – states that (1) organisms are made of one or more cells; (2)cells are the basic unit of life; and (3) all cells come only from other cells.
3. Cell wall – in plants, the rigid barrier that surrounds the outside of the plasma membrane, is made of cellulose, and provides support and protection to the cell.
4. Centriole – organelle that plays a role in cell division and is made of microtubules.
5. Chloroplasts – double-membrane organelle that captures light energy and converts it to chemical energy through photosynthesis.
6. Eukaryotic cell– unicellular organism with membrane-bound nucleus and organelles; generally larger and more complex than a prokaryotic cell.
7. Mitochondria – membrane-bound organelle that converts fuel into energy that is available to the rest of the cell.
8. Nucleus – in eukaryotic cells, the central membrane-bound organelle that manages cellular functions and contains DNA.
9. Organelle – specialized internal cell structure that carries out specific cell functions such as protein synthesis and energy transformation
10. Prokaryotic cell – microscopic, unicellular organism without a nucleus or other membrane-bound organelles.
11. Ribosome – organelle that links amino acids together to form proteins.
12. Semipermeable – (selectively permeable) – condition or quality of allowing some, but not all, materials to cross a barrier or membrane.