

HONORS BIOLOGY COURSE OVERVIEW AND EXPECTATIONS

Welcome to Biology! This course is designed to give students a hands-on, real-life experience into the world around them. Based on the scientific method, this program is designed to target and improve students' scientific process skills: predicting, inferring, separating and controlling variables, comparing and contrasting, problem solving, using numbers and collecting, recording, organizing and interpreting data.

Consideration for placement in honors chemistry will be based on classroom participation, homework completion, and a consistent B or above class average.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. Come to class prepared.
2. Show respect for yourself, others, and your school at all times.
3. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
4. Cell Phones need to be completely out of sight, or in cell phone jail along the wall.
5. 20/10 rule – students are not allowed to leave class during the first twenty minutes or last ten minutes of class.
6. Remain in your seat until excused to leave. It is considered a sign of disrespect to line up at the door.
7. Wear your mask appropriately at all times in this class and do not share materials with others.

TEXTBOOK

- *Biology*; Miller & Levine; Pearson/Prentice Hall, Inc. 2019
- Online textbook resources and eText using the icon in Classlink called Savvas EasyBridge

MATERIALS

To limit the spread of coronavirus and be able to easily transition to remote learning if needed, I am attempting to make this class digital.

- We will be using Google Classroom as our “digital classroom.”
- You will be issued a Chromebook and are expected to bring it to class every day.
- You need to have your own pair of headphones that are compatible with Chromebooks. (Chromebooks have a standard 3.5mm headphone jack, as well as Bluetooth capabilities)
- Recommended material = a universal stylus to allow for easier writing/drawing on the Chromebook

If things get back to normal and we remain in-person learning, then you will need a 1/2-inch binder with 6 dividers.

ATTENDANCE AND LATE WORK

Regular attendance is essential for success in all classes, but especially a challenging state-required science course with an EOC. **If you are absent, it is your responsibility to ask me for make-up work.** In general, you have two days to complete work after an excused absence. Late assignments or work turned in after an unexcused absence will lose 10% per day. Students who are concerned with their progress should check Focus regularly for the most up-to-date grade information.

GRADING

Quarter grades will be based on the points earned in the following categories:

- 50% tests (*can't use notes*)
- 25% quizzes and knowledge checks (*can use notes*)
- 25% homework and class work

WEEKLY OUTLINES

Please visit my staff page (found through Lemon Bay home page) to stay informed about homework assignments and upcoming assessments. Weekly outlines will also be posted on Google Classroom.

SCIENCE FAIR

Honors biology students have the opportunity to participate in science fair. See me as soon as possible if you are interested; we hold Lemon Bay's science fair in November. This school-based fair is used to select entrants into the Edison Regional Science Fair in Fort Myers. The selected projects will be entered into the regional science fair in January, with the possibility to be awarded scholarships, summer research fellowships, and cash prizes.

END OF COURSE (EOC) EXAM

The Florida Department of Education has implemented a Biology EOC to measure student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for this biology course. This is a computer-based assessment that will be given to every biology student in the state of Florida. You must "pass" the EOC to graduate with Scholar Designation on your diploma.

The EOC covers content from the whole year and will count as **30% of your overall grade.**

This means your Semester 1 & 2 grades will not be determined until after the EOC results come back in June/July. You will have a * on your report card until then.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Semester 1

Intro: The Nature of Science = scientific method

Unit 1: Biochemistry = basic chemistry, properties of water, macromolecules, enzymes

Unit 2: Cells = cell theory, different cell types, structure and function of organelles and membrane

Unit 3: Cellular Energetics = photosynthesis, cellular respiration, fermentation

Unit 4: Plant Structure and Function = basic anatomy of vascular plants and associated functions

Unit 5: Cellular Reproduction = DNA replication, mitosis, cancer

Semester 2

Unit 6: Human Reproduction = meiosis, karyotypes, reproductive anatomy and pregnancy

Unit 7: Genetics = Punnett squares, different modes of inheritance, pedigrees

Unit 8: Molecular Genetics = protein synthesis, biotechnology

Unit 9: Evolution = natural selection, hominine evolution, origin of life

Unit 10: Classification = taxonomy of living organisms, viruses, bacteria

Unit 11: Human Anatomy = human systems: immune, cardiovascular, parts of the brain

Unit 12: Ecology = population and community ecology, ecosystems, nutrient cycles, human impact

This year will be a challenge, but as long as we work together, communicate our needs, stay flexible and patient, I know we can get through this and end with a successful completion of the school year.

**The best way to contact me is through email:
jenee.mora@yourcharlotteschools.net**