



# Is Honors Biology Right for Me?



If you are able to answer “yes” to 5 or more of the questions below, then Honors Biology is likely an appropriate course for you.

Yes	Honors Biology Student Characteristics
	<b>I am thinking of becoming a doctor, dentist or veterinarian and perhaps majoring in science, nursing, pharmacy or engineering in college.</b>
	<b>I am interested in taking the PLTW Biomedical Pathway or AP Biology.</b>
	<b>I am an independent learner:</b> Independent learners want to find out more about the world and seek out ways to explore. They learn from various angles and formats, not just traditional instruction. They are proactive and find ways to access additional lesson supplements on their own. They are also responsible, accountable and possess critical thinking skills!
	<b>I am currently earning A/B grades in middle school science.</b> My middle school science teacher recommended Honors Biology. Students who have received a recommendation from their Honors Science middle school teacher are more likely to be successful in the Honors Biology class.
	<b>I am a strong technical reader:</b> Reading at grade level or higher – see pg. 3 of <a href="http://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2015/11/Normative-Data-2015.pdf">www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2015/11/Normative-Data-2015.pdf</a> Honors Biology students read text that includes data. Students are responsible to analyze and create their own notes over the content.
	<b>I am a strong writer.</b> Honors Biology students complete a major, formal, technically written lab report for each unit of study. These investigations require students to research background information, use APA citations, create their own experimental design (not follow a teacher’s procedure), present their data, and analyze their results.
	<b>I have a strong work ethic and time management skills.</b> As a responsible and dedicated Honors Biology student, you will have 30 – 60 minutes of biology homework on a consistent basis. Late work is accepted, with a 50% deduction to the score.  Many students and parents feel that students need to take an extremely rigorous course load, including advanced math, Honors Biology, Honors English and AP World History. Many of these same students are involved in extracurricular activities. Remember: Adolescents need 8-10 hours of sleep each evening for continued development of their brains. School-home-activity balance is important to keep in mind when selecting courses. It may be more appropriate to take only one or two advanced courses in the Ninth Grade year. We want to set you up for success!

**Please keep in mind the following as you are selecting your Ninth Grade classes:**

- Prioritizing students’ passions and strengths is important when considering course selections.
- The .5 GPA bump is applied only if a grade of C or better is attained in that course.
- Honors Biology is not required to earn the Academic Honors or Technical Honors diplomas.