

**FORSYTH COUNTY COURSE SYLLABUS
2018-2019**

COURSE TITLE:	Honors Biology		
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Course Description: The Biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations of the life sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology. This curriculum includes more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry. Other topics and instructional methods specific to preparing students for the rigors of future honors science courses, Advanced Placement, and IB science courses are also included. **The state mandated Georgia Milestones End of Course Assessment is required and counts 20% of the student's overall course grade.**

Standards: Course Standards can be found at www.georgiastandards.org or you can also find a link to them on the Forsyth County Schools website.

Learning Resources/Textbook(s): With the emergence of technology as a tool for learning, South Forsyth High School will be utilizing various resources to assist with instruction, including ItsLearning, and interactive websites. In addition to these web based instructional tools, this course will also have a classroom set of textbooks. Should you feel that your child would benefit from having a textbook at home in addition to the classroom textbook, please contact your child's teacher.

Supplies needed for class: writing utensils, three-ring binder (1.5 or 2 inch) dedicated for Biology use only, notebook paper, and dividers (10). A basic calculator, highlighter, and notecards would also be useful.

Required Assignments: There will be at least 10 unit tests during the course as well as various performance based assessments that require writing, research, and creativity. Students may not retake tests if they receive a low/failing grade. The number of formative grades such as lab reports, quizzes, homework, journals, etc. will be determined along the course of the school year. Homework will be assessed in the form of a stamp sheet. There will be both announced and unannounced ("pop") quizzes. Announced quizzes will count as two formative grades. Unannounced quizzes will count as one formative grade.

Availability for Extra Help: I am available during Instructional Focus on Wednesday's, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 7:45– 8:15am or other times by appointment.

Makeup Work: Make up work is defined as work assigned during a student's absence, not work assigned prior to an absence. All missed work and assessments are the responsibility of the student when they are absent from school. A student who is absent on the class day before a regularly scheduled assessment will be responsible for completing the assignment on the regularly scheduled day and time. Students who have been absent more than two consecutive days (including the assessment day) will be given five (5) school days to make up the assessment and/or other assignments. This does not include major projects, research papers, etc., where the deadline has been posted in advance. It is the student's responsibility to see the teacher before, or after, class to request or submit late assignments when absent. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period of time to make up work if there are

extenuating circumstances.

Long-term projects must be turned in on the previously scheduled date. If a student is absent on that day, they must turn in the project the day they return to receive full credit. For every day late thereafter, their highest possible grade will be a 70. A course calendar and any handouts given out in class will be posted on ItsLearning. We will also utilize ItsLearning as a communication resource. Below is the website where these resources can be found:

<https://www.forsyth.itslearning.com>

Late daily assignments will be penalized 10 points per day (maximum penalty of 30 points) until the summative test on that unit. Once that unit test is over, no daily (formative) assignments will be accepted!

Grading Calculations:

EOC Course Average = 40% (1st Sem. Course Work) + 40% (2nd Sem. Course Work) + 20% EOC
1st & 2nd Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Non-EOC Course Average = 50% (1st Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2nd Sem. Course Work)

1st and 2nd Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Concept of formative assessment: <http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=8&n=9>

Grading Policy:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

Formative Assessments include, but are not limited to homework, class work, practice tests, rough drafts, and sections of projects/research papers/presentations. They count as **25% of each semester average.*

Summative Assessments include, but are not limited to unit tests, final projects, final essays, final research papers, and final presentations. They count as **75% of each semester average.*