

Honors Biology Syllabus
Mrs. Hunter
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My Schedule:

Office Hours 8:00-8:15	Period 1 8:20-9:44 Honors Biology	Period 2 9:47-11:11 Honors Earth & Environmental Science	Office Hours 11:14-12:10 Tuesday and Thursday	Period 3 12:38-2:02 Planning	Period 4 2:05-3:30 Honors Earth & Environmental Science
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Course Description

Biology is the study of living things. We will talk about what it means to be alive and over the course of the semester, we will go from studying the smallest unit of life- a single cell- to how multicellular organisms reproduce and depend upon one another. In-depth study of the following concepts is included: the structure and functions of living organisms, ecosystems, evolution, genetics, and molecular biology.

Students will develop skills for scientific analysis including the ability to:

- Discuss ideas with others and debate opposing points of view.
- Research information to expand learning and gain alternative perspectives.
- Collaborate with others to achieve a common goal.
- Generate questions about the world around them and propose ways to go about answering them.
- Apply what is learned in this class to thinking about themselves and their communities.

Course Materials:

Composition notebook—mandatory! (no substitutions)
3 prong folder (to create an EOC Review Packet over the course of the semester)
Glue sticks
Colored pencils
Scissors
Colored ink pens (the type that don't bleed through pages are best)
Blue/black ink pens, pencils, highlighters
Laptop

My Grading Policy:

As human beings, we were all born to learn, however it usually takes repeated practice and lots of mistakes to ever become good at something. Failure is sometimes our best teacher. The same is true for Biology. Students will have lots of opportunities to practice and receive daily feedback before unit tests, so that by the time they are tested, they should have a good understanding of what they know and

don't know and need to focus on studying or asking for help with. Students are expected to take responsibility for mastering content knowledge *prior* to unit tests, by completing all learning activities for the sake of learning. Many assignments may not be graded, however they are still expected to be completed. The data collected from non graded assignments is intended for students to use as a way to self assess their understanding and for me to use to facilitate your student's individual learning pathway. All students must get an 80% or higher on Unit Tests to "pass" the test. Any student that does not achieve 80% or higher will complete a request to retest form and complete intervention activities prior to retaking the test. A student that makes between a 80% and 90% on a unit test may also choose to enter the intervention cycle and retake the test by following the same procedure. I encourage all students to be active, engaged, self aware learners and to never give up.

Grading Scale:

A= 100-90	B= 89-80	C= 79-70	D=69-60	E= <59
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Category Weights

Q1 & Q2	Final Grade
Tests/Projects- 50% Quizzes/Lab Reports (includes vocabulary quizzes)- 25% Graded Classwork (includes open note quizzes)- 25%	40% Q1 40% Q2 20% EOC Score

Q1 Research Project

Every student will choose a biology related topic to research. Students will be assigned a day at the end of the semester to give an oral report to present their research to the rest of the class. On the day of their presentation students are encouraged to invite guests to our class to support them. This will make up 20% of students Semester 1 grade.

Q2 EOC prep assignment

Students will be creating a cumulative EOC study guide over the course of the semester. They will receive credit for this work as part of their semester 2 grade.

NC EOC: Honors Biology is an EOC course. The EOC Biology exam is a state administered test and will count as 20% of the final course grade.

Course Overview by Units

Unit Title	<i>Tentative Dates of Units**</i>
Unit 1 - Orientation to the Course and the Nature of Science	Aug 6 - Aug 10
Unit 2- Characteristics of Life with a focus on Unicellular Organisms	Aug 13- Aug 17
Unit 3 - Ecology	Aug 20-Aug 31
Unit 4 – Biochemistry	Sept 4 - Sept 12
Unit 5 – Cell Structure	Sept 13 - Sept 24
Unit 6 - Cell Processes	Sept 25 - Oct 16
Unit 7- Molecular Genetics	Oct 17 - Oct 31
Unit 8- Heredity	Nov. 1 - Nov. 15
Unit 9- Evolution & Diversity	Nov. 16 - Nov. 30
Unit 10 - Review	Dec. 3 - Dec. 13
Bell 1 Biology EOC	Friday December 14

****All dates are subject to change.**

In addition to the standard course of study objectives, the following honors objectives will be incorporated into the course:

Honors objectives:

Design, conduct and evaluate independent scientific investigations.

- Evaluate student-generated hypotheses related to questions in biological science by designing and carrying out independent investigations.
- Relate student investigations to current issues and research in the biological sciences.
- Prepare formal written lab reports with analysis of data.
- Discuss sources of error and bias in investigations.
- Present findings to members of the community.

Classroom Expectations

Students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- Keeping cell phones put away at all times. Cell phone use is only permitted with permission from the teacher. There should be NO social media use during class.
- Turn in all assignments ON TIME.
- Being on time to class and ready to begin when the bell rings. Students are expected to be on task the entire period.
- Following all directions accurately.
- NO eating or drinking in the science class. All behaviors should be appropriate for the learning environment. Safety in the classroom and laboratory is a primary concern. Any students who do not follow safety rules

and precautions will not be permitted to complete the activity. Horseplay will not be tolerated. A lab safety contract **must be on file** for all students.

- Bringing materials to class daily. Do not bring materials for other classes with you to science. Use your locker!
- Being respectful to themselves, other students, and the teacher. Behavior that interferes with the learning of others will not be tolerated.
- Observe all school rules and district policies in the classroom.

Corrective Measures

The classroom rules listed above ensure an atmosphere conducive to learning. If they are not followed, students can expect a warning, parent notification by phone or mail, and/or referral to the administrative staff.

- **1st infraction:** verbal warning
- **2nd infraction:** loss of privileges and parent notification—disruptive or distracting items will be taken away and returned to the student at the end of the period.
- **3rd infraction:** office referral
- **Severe/Major disruptions:** immediate removal from the classroom without prior warning or parent notification.

Assignments

All assignments will be expected on/by the due date. Work must be turned in directly to the teacher. Turning in an assignment late, without teacher communication is unacceptable. If a student turns in an incomplete or late assignment, she/he will be asked to fill out a late/incomplete assignment reflection form. The purpose of this form is to provide the student an opportunity to reflect on their own learning and incorporate necessary interventions that will assist the student in turning in assignments on time. Please always speak with me prior to the deadline if you need an extension for an assignment.

Make up Work

Good attendance is a major factor affecting your academic success. Students are required to adhere to the JPK attendance policy in order to receive credit for the course. Classroom activities and labs must be made up during office hours. Make-up work is due within 3 days of the student's return to class, should a student need to be absent. Parents should provide a written note to the school for all excused absences. It is the student's responsibility to check with me concerning missing work.

Lab Reports

Science by its very nature is a social activity and there will be many opportunities to work in collaborative groups in this class. However, formal lab reports are done individually. Students may consult with their lab partners about results, however they are never permitted to copy any of part of their partners' lab report. All

students are expected to record the data at the time the lab is done. There will be no tolerance for copying answers in lab reports (or any other work). There is a difference between working as a group and copying one member of the group's answers.

Vocabulary

Learning Biology can sometimes feel like learning a foreign language. There will be an emphasis on building vocabulary skills for each unit of study. Students will be provided a list of vocabulary words for each unit and will be quizzed regularly on all vocabulary words. We will primarily use Quizlet to assist with developing and assessing mastery of vocabulary words. I encourage students to download the Quizlet app on their phones if possible.

Office Hours

I am always willing to provide additional instruction to students that may not understand a concept or need additional help. Please do not wait until the day of a test to try and get help. I am available to assist students in the mornings from 8:00-8:15 daily, except for Fridays, and students can also request help during office hours from 11:15-12:10 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students should request office hours at least 24 hours in advance. Students with missing/incomplete work or a grade below a 70 in the course will be assigned office hours which they must attend. Friday afternoon office hours may also be assigned.

Google Classroom

Every student must join our classroom on Google Classroom. We will do this in class at the beginning of the semester. I will post assignments, powerpoints, vocabulary lists, and announcements here. Parents also have the option to get notifications from Google Classroom so that you can stay up to date with what we are doing in our class. I will send an invitation to every parent via email.

Parent Power

Get involved!! Your student's success is a team effort and I strongly encourage and welcome your involvement in their education. Please email me with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the semester about what we are doing in Biology or how your student is doing. I will respond to your emails within 48 hours.

Recommended resources for every student and parent

- Currituck County Schools app- to receive district news and notifications
- PowerSchool app- access student grades
- Quizlet app- vocabulary building
- Google Classroom- classroom announcements, assignments, links to notes, etc.
- JPK School website- access teacher websites and course information, daily announcements, and our school calendar
- Link to our Remind 101 class: [Click Here](#). You can also text @bf498hb to the number 81010 from your cell phone.

We have read and understand the policies listed in the Honors Biology syllabus for Fall 2018.

Print Student's Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent email: (please print clearly)

Parent phone number: _____

Preferred method of communication with teachers: _____

Parent comments:
