

Honors Biology Syllabus 2019-2020

Instructor Contact Information:

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Fastest way to reach me is via email. I will respond.

DCPS Course Description: In high school Biology, students continue developing their understanding of disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and engineering design from elementary and middle school to help them make sense of the life sciences. Students will review of the basic chemistry of life, to better understand the topic of matter and its relationship to living things. They will continue investigating explanations for the structure and function of cells as the basic units of life, how cells obtain and use the energy they need to live and grow, the hierarchical systems of organisms, and the role of specialized cells for maintenance and growth. Students will delve into the topics of inheritance and variation of traits to help them better understand how the characteristics from one generation are related to the previous generation. Students will apply this learning to the topic of evolution by natural selection to better understand how there can be so many similarities among organisms, yet so many different types of organisms. Students connect all their learning to explore the interdependent relationships in ecosystems to better answer the question of how organisms interact with the living and non-living world to obtain the matter and energy needed to survive and, in many instances, thrive.

How is Honors Biology different from General Biology?

Since you showed on your Placement Assessment that you learned and remembered middle school science content, we will NOT review middle school. Instead, we will dive directly into high school content and move fast enough to touch on some advanced content per topic. This is a large class with a waiting list to participate. Therefore, students are expected to work well with their lab groups to solve problems without one-on-one teacher guidance. Students will be expected to apply prior knowledge of middle school content regularly without direct review.

- If you do NOT think advanced biology is right for you, please let your counselor know as soon as possible. There are other students that would like your seat.
- If you are ready to step up to this challenge, I am here to support you and look forward to a rigorous and fast paced year.

Materials

The following materials will need to be obtained by Tuesday September 3rd:

- **1.5 inch (or larger) 3-Ring Binder!!!**
- Lots of writing utensils – pens and pencils.
- NOTE: We do NOT have a physical text book. DCPS provides us with an online Tech Book. Your classwork will contain all needed text from that source.

Basic Rules and Expectations: Students are expected to...

1. Respect each other and the building by being considerate and thoughtful of others feelings;
2. Demonstrate trustworthy behavior;
3. Follow “ask 3 before me” policy when you come across a challenge
4. Monitor their own speaking level for appropriateness
5. Come to class prepared and on time

6. DO NOT TOUCH LAB CHEMICALS AND/OR EQUIPMENT UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO

Special note: If you are having difficulty with this course, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL TOTALLY LOST!!! I hold office hours every day during lunch (check with me ahead of time to ensure I don't have a meeting or other obligation).

DCPS Grading Policies: How are your grades earned?

The DCPS Grading and Reporting Policy specifies three different grade categories for all secondary subjects:

Category	Percent of Term Grade	Description	Late Penalty*
Practice and Application	50%	Homework (online) and classwork (in binder)	50% of earned credit. Ex: If you earn an 8/10 on a late HW, I will type a 4/10 into the grade book.
Assessments	40%	Quizzes, Projects and large labs (these will be indicated in advance)	10% grade penalty for each business day late with the maximum deduction being 50% Must be turned in before the last day of the quarter.
Participation	10%	Engaging in group discussion of daily Warm Ups, Exit Tickets/Conclusions and any group role required for the day. Grade is entered every two weeks with a summarizing grade out of 20 points.	This can't be late, therefore points are gained or lost as follows: Unexcused Abs: 0%/day Excused Abs: Exempt from participating, no points earned or lost Up to 4 points can earned/lost per class based on the specific class activities of the day.
Midterm and Final Exam	20% of Course Grade	These two assessments stand alone in the grade book. They are NOT part of any one grading quarter. Each is 10% of the overall grade for the course and are graded with a letter grade (A-F) not a percentage or rubric. These assessments are secured assessments and will not be handed back.	

* Late Penalty is applied to anything missed due to an **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE**. Note, the teacher does NOT have control over what is legally considered excused vs unexcused. The attendance officer must evaluate each case and apply DCPS policies.

Cheating is forbidden. This includes blatant copying or “borrowing” of in class or online assignments, and copying online material for papers and projects. All parties involved in cheating will be given a zero on the assignment.

I have read and understand the above objectives, methods, procedures, expectations, policies, obligations, evaluation criteria, and course content

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Full Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Full Name _____