Honors Biology 2021-2022

Instructor: Mr. Figliomeni Room 120
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Honors Biology is a year long advanced college preparatory lab science course designed to teach students the concepts and principles of biology. Students will develop a conceptual framework of modern biology and recognize unifying themes that integrate the major topics. Students will learn about the scientific process, cellular biology, genetics, evolution, physiology, and ecology. Laboratory activities stress the development of important skills such as detailed observation, accurate recording, experimental design, and data interpretation and analysis with the goal of developing inquiry-based thinkers. Students will also develop (or hone) critical thinking skills through research & discussions about current biological advancement and issues.

Classroom preparation and supplies:

1. Class preparation is vital in this course. Toward that end, several things will be required of you **each day**:

1 – 1½ inch three ring binder to store all important class papers—this binder CAN stay in Room 120!
1 – 100 sheet (minimum) **perforated** college ruled paper **SPIRAL** notebook (solely for this class!)
1 -- Lab Notebook for class lab work (**this will be supplied—DO NOT BUY**!)
A writing instrument

Class Policies

Homework: ***Honors coursework*** is to be completed on time and **will not be accepted late**. The instructor **can** take into consideration extenuating circumstances that may legitimately interfere with work completion so students are encouraged to communicate reasons daily work may not be completed.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to do their own work. Copying the work of others or allowing a classmate to copy from you is dishonest and will result in a score of zero on the assignment. Plagiarism is NOT acceptable under any circumstances! When doing research all sources must be appropriately cited. All students have the responsibility to refrain from cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty. Students academically dishonest are subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance: This class is a **block class** thus your presence is necessary every day. Should an absence occur, make-up work for an *excused* absence is the responsibility of the student. You have as many days to make-up missed assignments as you were absent. If an absence occurs on test day, students will take that test on the next day. I am available before school (6:30 AM on most days). I will not remind students without their desire to keep up so Get all make-up work the FIRST day back after an absence.**See me! It is important.**

Lab Safety: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner in the science lab. A signed Lab Safety Contract must be on file with the teacher in order to conduct any lab experiments. All lab safety rules will be followed. Failure to do so will result in serious consequences including, but not limited to removal from the classroom and/or referral to the Discipline Center.

Food and Drink: There is to be no food or drinks in class at anytime except for acceptable beverage in its original bottle. There will be no warnings. Eating in class will result in a detention.

Restroom breaks: Use the facilities before you get to class. You will have **EMERGENCY** passes to the restroom each quarter. These emergency passes may be issued at the teacher's discretion. (If a medical problem requires you to use the restroom more frequently, please provide a doctor's note to the school nurse.)

Be prepared: bring a pencil/pen (blue/black ink), spiral notebook, lab notebook AND also **Put materials away** daily

Class rule: ALL school rules and policies will be followed as outlined in the student handbook. So…there is not an added list of rules for this class. The O**ne** rule I will hold you to can be summed up in one word.

The rule is RESPECT and all class interactions will depend on this rule.

Dismissal: I will dismiss you from class, not the bell. Stay in your seats until released.

Exit Exam: There will be state mandated Inquiry Based Biology Test administered by the State of Ohio in December and may be a final ***cumulative*** exit exam in this class, thus organization throughout the semester and keeping handouts/tests will be of great service! **Get organized now! See me if you need help!** A study guide will be provided (if necessary) toward the end of the semester

Science Research Lab Reports

In depth science investigations are a required part of the Honors Biology Curriculum that replaced the "Science Fair Project" done in the past. Students will utilize the Scientific Method to investigate four Life Science topics from class units during the year--one per quarter. A formal written lab report format will be a key part of that requirement Although topics will be assigned and the investigation performed in the classroom, the typed, multi-page formal lab report will be individually completed outside of the classroom.

Grading: Final Grades in the course will be determined by the average:

Daily Class & Homework	25.0 %	This Constitutes **85%** of Grade
Tests & Quizzes	50.0 %	
All Lab Work	25.0%	

% Grade	Letter Grade	Quality Points	Honors Quality Points
93-100	A	4.0	4.5
90-92	A-	3.7	4.2
87-89	B+	3.3	3.8
83-86	B	3.0	3.5
80-82	B-	2.7	3.2
77-79	C+	2.3	2.8
73-76	C	2.0	2.5
70-72	C-	1.7	2.2
67-69	D+	1.3	1.8
63-66	D	1.0	1.5
60-62	D-	0.7	1.2
0-59	F	0	0

Quarter Averages use the following grading scheme and scale:

This is a Whitmer High School Honors Course with high expectations.
Typically there will be ups and downs over the semester for most students.

Little extra credit work will be offered, thus consistent effort over the entire semester will be vital to success.