

## Honors Biology Policies and Expectations

Ms. McCoy

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<http://pgscience.weebly.com/>

### Contact/Communication

***In person:*** I will stay after school most days. Check with me before staying.

***Via email:*** I check email throughout the day. I will check it occasionally during the evenings. I am happy to answer any questions or provide assistance, but keep in mind if your questions are for homework due the next day you may not reach me in time, and that doesn't excuse you from handing in your homework.

***Website:*** Check the website often for information and updates.

***If you don't seek help, I will assume you are up to speed with class! I am ready and willing to work with you...so take advantage!***

### General Course Overview:

Biology is the study of all life on earth. The methods used in teaching this course are laboratory experiences, classroom discussions, group work, and lectures. In Honors Biology, students are expected to work independently on a variety of assignments and accept greater responsibility for their learning. In addition to the NC Essential Standards goals and objectives, students are expected to: design and carry out independent investigations of biological questions, read and report on recent research in biology, and demonstrate a more in-depth conceptual understanding of all biology objectives. \*This course has an End-of-Course test requirement – students must score a Level III or above to be deemed proficient.

### Course Fee:

This course has a \$5.00 fee.

### Social Expectations/Classroom Procedures

Students are expected to:

- **Attendance:** I expect you to show up, and show up on time. I expect you to be here both physically and mentally - pay attention in class; share your ideas, thoughts, and insights.
- **Class time/materials:** Class will begin at the bell and end at the bell. *You are expected to be in your seat ready to begin when the bell rings.* It is your responsibility to be prepared for every class. There will be no food permitted in the classroom.
- Honor school policies and procedures as stated in the school student handbook
- Students will not be disrespectful or disruptive to classmates or teachers; demonstrate respect for self and others in a diverse community
- Act in a responsible manner and be accountable for your own actions
- A great deal of class assignments will be done in class with a partner or group. It is essential that all students come to class *prepared* and participate in class discussions and activities on a regular basis. It is crucial that you attempt to complete all assignments, for they will lead to new material.
- **Interventions:** Students with *averages below 75%* will be assigned *required enrichment*. I am available most afternoons for help; just check with me first.

## Grading Policy:

Your grade is based upon your performance on the following assessments, and is weighted as listed. It is important to note that everything you do, both in class and at home, affects your grade. Further, your attitude and attention in class will impact your performance on all assessments. Simply put, you have a much better chance at success if you actively participate in classroom activities.

		Grading Scale	
Nine weeks grade:		A	90-100
Tests/Projects	60%	B	80-89
Daily work	30%	C	70-79
Homework (HW)	10%	D	60-69
		F	Below 60

Semester grade:

$$(1^{\text{st}} \text{ nine weeks} \times .375) + (2^{\text{nd}} \text{ nine weeks} \times .375) + (\text{EOC grade} \times .25)$$

### **Tests:**

Test dates will be announced well in advance. Students who are absent the day before a test must take the test with the rest of the class. Students who are absent on the day of the test must take the test after school.

### **Missed Work:**

If you are absent, homework due the day you missed is due upon your return to school. You will have one week from the day you return to hand in any homework assigned on the day(s) of your absence. You will also have one week to make up any missed labs. This can be done at a time agreed upon by you and me (before or after school). If you have not made up missed work after the week, your work will be considered late.

### **Late work:**

No late work will be accepted.

### **Scholarly Integrity:**

It is expected that the work you do will be your own, whether on a test, quiz, homework, or lab report. When you collaborate in groups, you are expected to discuss ideas and help each other to clarify your understanding of concepts. You may collect data together on labs. However, when you write down answers to questions, they should be your own answers, reflecting YOUR understanding and knowledge. Copying someone else's work is called cheating; it is not allowed and will earn all participants a ZERO on the assessment.

### **Semester Exam:**

This course has an End-of-Course exam. Students must earn level III or greater to show proficiency. The exam counts for 25% of the semester grade.