

# Biology and Honors Biology Syllabus 2023-2024

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## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1-thin binder OR 1-folder with pockets and brads to keep your notes in
- Pencils and pens
- Highlighter
- Wired Headphones with USB for Chromebook (cannot use wireless headphones)
- Notebook paper
- Box of Kleenex

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Biology is the study of living organisms, their origins, how they survive, reproduce, change over time, and interact with each other and their environment. The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a fundamental understanding of modern biology and scientific processes. These topics will be examined through both class work and the laboratory.

## TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE: (This may change at any time)

1<sup>st</sup> Six Weeks -----Safety/Scientific Method/Biochemistry/Properties of Water

2<sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks-----The Cell/Cellular Processes

3<sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks-----Genetics & Heredity

4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks-----Evolution/Classification/Microorganisms

5<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks-----Plants/Animals/Body Systems

6<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks-----Ecology

**\*\*All dissections will be done during the second semester.**

## GRADING PROCEDURE:

- 60% Exams, Projects, Major Labs
- 40% Daily work, Labs, Quizzes, and Homework

## LATE & MISSING WORK POLICY:

- If a student is a no show or the student does not do the work at Midweek Make-Up the zeroes will stay in the gradebook. If a student does not attend Midweek Make-up, the student will be placed in lunch detention the next three days.
- The student will receive a reduction in grade of no more than 5 points per day until the student reaches a maximum grade of 80.
  - Day 1 - 95
  - Day 2 - 90
  - Day 3 - 85
  - Day 4 - 80
  - Midweek Make-Up - 80

### TUTORIALS:

I am available for tutorials every morning from 7:40-8:00 and every afternoon from 3:30-4:00. *PLEASE* use these to your advantage. Do not wait until you are so far behind that we can never catch up before you come in for help. Please come in as soon as you are feeling lost and I will help you!

### TEXTBOOKS:

We have a class set of Biology textbooks that we will use in class. Every student will also have access to the complete textbook online as well as many resources the textbook offers online. Students are also allowed to check out a textbook for the night.

### PROJECTS:

- Projects will not be returned and will become the property of IPHS Science Department once they are turned in.
- There will be periodic projects assigned throughout the year.
- There is not an Insect and Flower collection anymore in Biology.

### LABS:

Laboratory experimentation and exploration are a large part of this course. It is vital that the students follow all laboratory procedures and safety rules/guidelines. Failure to comply with behavior expectations can result in removal from the lab activities. A safety contract will be sent home and filled out by the student and parent/guardian. These documents will be kept on file and are needed before a student can participate in any labs.

### STUDY TECHNIQUES:

The most common problem of students is that their study skills are not adequate for high school level classes. Studying for classes involves more than just "cramming the night before a test". The following are suggestions to improve your grade in Biology and other high school courses.

1. Prepare for class before coming in by reading over your notes soon after you have written them.
2. Do all worksheets, study questions, etc.
3. Keep your handouts, lecture notes, and study questions in your notebook ALL YEAR. We will reference back to these when we start reviewing for your Biology EOC test.
4. Pay attention and don't daydream and goof off during class.
5. Study frequently and in small doses. Cramming does not allow for long term understanding that will stick with you!
6. **COME IN FOR TUTORIALS.** Do not wait until the day of the test to come in and get some help. I cannot make miracles occur. Please utilize tutorial times prior to getting behind

### PARENTS & GUARDIANS:

Our goal is to provide a safe and quality learning experience for each of our students. We teach because we love young people and we are always willing to do what is in their best interest, fairly. We appreciate and welcome parental input and support. We consider you to be vital to your child's success. All students entering high school are required to pass the STAAR (EOC) Biology test to graduate. The material that we will be learning in Biology is critical to successful performance on their Biology EOC test that they will take in May. It is important that each student understand what will be expected of them. Encouragement from home is very helpful in accomplishing our goals.

Your child will receive a three-week progress report and a six-week report card each grading period. If your child is not passing, you will receive a three-week progress report through e-mail. Please access Skyward (our grade book program) periodically to check your child's grades so that there are no surprises when progress reports and report cards come out and you can help us stay on top of your child's grades.