

# Honors Biology Syllabus and Information Sheet Hamilton High School



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## **Course Description:**

This course is an activity-driven biology program aligned with, and designed to prepare students for AP/College Level Biology. This year the Honors Biology curriculum will be driven by Storylining, which is a student centered learning method that increases student ownership over their learning. It integrates the concepts of science within storyline units, unlike the fragmented and disconnected stand-alone units of the past. Storylining is cyclical in nature, always leading with authentic, real-world phenomena, and revisiting the overarching concepts in different contexts throughout the school year. Students should have opportunities to transfer their critical thinking skills to new situations presented to them. Over the course of the year we will be building scientific investigation skills and using these skills as we explore cell biology, learn about enzymes, examine biochemical processes such as photosynthesis and cellular respiration, investigate DNA and its associated technologies, and study the principles of genetics and evolution. Additionally, we will focus on ecology and the effects of human impact.

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Notebook: All students should maintain an orderly notebook.
2. Pocket folder to carry classwork and homework assignments, ruled paper for note-taking.
3. Writing Utensils: Several pencils and colored pens. Bring your own pencil lead. Students are required to have their own materials.
4. **The Living World** by George Johnson, Fourth edition. Students will have a textbook checked out to them to use at home and it will remain there for the school year. There will be a set of textbooks in each classroom for schoolwork.
5. It is HIGHLY suggested that each student has his/her own daily planner to record all assignments, due dates and assessments.

## **Absences / Homework:**

**Virtual Attendance Statement:** Attendance is based on engagement. If a student is not present for synchronous instruction and does not complete the asynchronous/alternative assignment for the daily class meeting, then the student is considered absent. Asynchronous assignments need to be completed prior to the next class period for attendance and full credit. Teachers will contact attendance clerks once a student is determined to be absent.

## **In person**

1. If the student was present when an assignment was given, but absent the day the assignment is turned in, **the assignment will be due the day the student returns to school.**
2. If the student has an **excused** absence on the day an assignment is given, **it is the students' responsibility to retrieve the assignments** by checking the homework file in class or on the class website.
3. The student will have one day for each day that they are absent to make up the work. If the work is not completed on time 10% will be deducted for their grade on that assignment each day it is late. After 4 days, 0% will be given on the assignment.
4. If a student is absent during a lab, they need to make an appointment for after school to complete the lab. This needs to occur within one week of the scheduled lab. However, the teacher reserves the right to give an alternative assignment if the lab is unable to be replicated after school due to time or supplies.
5. After nine absences, the student may be dropped from the class per Hamilton High School administration.
6. **Cheating:** Students are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity while attendance at Hamilton High School. We expect each student to do his or her own work. This includes taking tests, completing homework, and other class assignments. If submitted work is not a true reflection of the student's own effort and ability, then the student has manifested unacceptable academic behavior and the assignment will receive a zero. The following actions will be considered cheating:

- A. Claiming credit for work not the product of individual effort.
- B. Providing access to materials/information so that others may wrongly claim credit. (Both parties will receive zero credit)
- C. Knowing about and tolerating observed dishonest behavior.
- D. Since this is a laboratory course, we encourage students to work in cooperative groups. However, all lab reports and work submitted must be INDIVIDUAL and UNIQUE.

\*\* Please refer to the student handbook for the HHS cheating and plagiarism policy and consequences.

7. Communication/Parent Online Access: Google classroom will contain announcements and assignments with due dates. There is no excuse for not knowing when something is due. In addition, parents and students may check their grades through Infinite Campus. If you do not know how to check your grade online, please call the front desk at (480) 883-5000. Parents can access their child's grades and assignments by going to the school's website <http://www.cusd80.com/Page/15332>. Student information is only accessible by using an individualized password assigned by the school.

**Office Hours:** 2:15 - 3:15 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays (Subject to Change) or by appointment.

This is a great opportunity for students and parents to ask questions or get help with an assignment.

**GRADING POLICIES:**

You will be able to access your grade through Infinite Campus. It is your responsibility to keep abreast of your grade always. Grades for the course will be computed based on a weighted average of your scores in the following categories:

Assessments (Tests/ Quizzes)	60%
Lab Work	25%
Homework/Classwork/ Warm-ups	15%

Semester grades will be calculated on an 80/20 formula.

90 - 100%	=	A
80 - 89%	=	B
70 - 79%	=	C
60 - 69%	=	D
Below 60%	=	No Credit

**Contract for Success: When we return in person.**

This is a contract stating the promise of the student, parent/guardian, and teacher to follow for the student to be successful. By signing this contract, all parties have agreed to adhere to the promise listed. This contract will be referred to during disciplinary hearings and parent meetings.

**WHEN IN PERSON CLASSES START**

**TARDIES:** One factor that contributes to poor grades is student tardiness. All students are expected to be prompt to each class session. Any student that is not in his/her assigned seat when the final bell rings is considered tardy unless he/she has a school issued pass. Tardy students will be monitored and once the student has accumulated five tardies in the class they will be reported to administration.

**Food/ Drink:** There is no gum, food, drink allowed in the classroom, except for water bottles.

**Safety and Behavior:** Safety is a major consideration in any science laboratory. All students will be required to sign a safety contract before participating in the laboratory. Students who do not observe and practice classroom safety procedures and school rules *will not* be permitted to participate in lab. It is everyone's responsibility to maintain a safe environment. *Absolutely no lenience will be given.* Specific directions are given as a mean of keeping everyone safe. The policy includes that closed toe shoes be worn during various labs throughout the school year. Use of profanity will not be tolerated and may result in a referral to the HHS administration. Cell phones will not be permitted in class. See student handbook for further details on HHS's cell phone policy.

**Diversity statement:** All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Hamilton High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participation in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

## Virtual and In-person:

**Appropriate use of technology – board policy IJNDC-R:** The Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the District be used in a safe responsible and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning. It is the policy of the Chandler Unified School District to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all electronic resource activities by staff and students. The District reserves the right to monitor use of the District's systems for improper use without warning or prior consent. Students shall be informed that computer files and electronic communications, including email, are not private and may be accessed by the District at any time. Inappropriate use may result in disciplinary action and/or legal action in accordance with the law and Board policy. Please visit the student handbook at <https://www.cusd80.com/handbooks> for further details about appropriate use of technology use.

## COURSEWORK

1. **Assessments:** Exams will consist of multiple choice questions, experimental design, graphical analysis & free response questions (essay). Quizzes may include multiple choice reading assessments, vocabulary definitions, and free-response questions. All exams and quizzes are comprehensive for the semester.
2. **Homework:** All homework assignments are carefully chosen to enhance subject comprehension. You are expected to keep up in your readings. Successful students spend approximately 30 – 45 minutes EACH night reviewing material for the course. Possible assignments may include vocabulary building, reading guides, web assignments, objective questions, and essay responses. Homework assignments will be posted on Google Classroom under Classwork. Please check these regularly. Please email the teacher for the assignment if there are questions.
3. **Laboratory Work:** Several labs will be conducted throughout the year. Lab write-ups include both formal & informal write-ups, pre-& post lab assessments and occasional lab practical.

I encourage all of you to work to the best of your ability, be respectful, responsible, and accountable for your actions. In return, you can expect the same from me! If you should have any questions or concerns you may stop by before or after school, leave a message on voice mail or e-mail. **Please allow up to 24 hours for a response.**

**WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ALTER AND UPDATE THIS SYLLABUS AS DEEMED NECESSARY AS WE TRANSITION TO IN PERSON LEARNING**

**I am very excited to have you as a student in my classroom! Please let me know what I can do for you and let us have a great year! Dr. Nair 😊 ☐**