

# Honors Biology Syllabus and Information Sheet Hamilton High School



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## Course Description:

This course is an innovative, activity-driven biology program aligned with, and designed to prepare students for AP/College Level Biology. The curriculum strongly emphasizes the development of the conceptual framework for modern biology. Students are expected to design and evaluate their own laboratory experiments. The curriculum allows learners to conduct investigations that are meaningful to them and that highlight experimental design, analysis, and application of concepts. Students will use educational technologies as tools for learning. Over the course of the year we will be building scientific investigation skills and using these skills as we explore cells and cell biology, learn of 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 and briefly explore some human body systems and diversity of life. Students will be prepared for success in the AIMS Biology exam given in March/April.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Notebook: All students should maintain an orderly notebook. Obtain a large, 3-ring binder that will hold all class forms, chapter objectives, homework and paper for notes.
2. Writing Utensils: Several pencils and colored pens. Bring your own pencil lead. Students are required to have their own materials always!
3. **The Living World** by George Johnson, Fourth edition. Students may have a text book checked out to them to use at home and/or in class.
4. It is HIGHLY suggested that each student has his/her own daily planner in order to record all assignments and assessments.

## Absences / Homework:

- 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 30% will be deducted for their grade on that assignment. (Maximum 4 days late). After 4 days 0% will be given on the assignment.
- 4) If a student is absent during a lab, they may make an appointment for after school to complete the lab; however, I reserve the right to give an alternative assignment.
- 5) After 9 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 student 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: The class websites contain assignments and due dates. There is no excuse for not knowing when something is due. Also, parents and students may check their grades online. 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.

**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 reported to administration.

### **Excessive Absences**

A.R.S. §15-803 (B) states that absences may be considered excessive when the number of absent days exceeds ten percent of the number of required attendance days prescribed in A.R.S. §15-802. Ten percent equates to nine (9) days of absences per semester regardless of whether they are excused or unexcused. Students with excessive excused absences will be required to provide medical documentation to remain in class and excuse any further absences. If additional absences occur, and medical documentation is not provided, the student will be referred to administration.

### **GRADING POLICIES:**

You will be able to access your grade through Infinite Campus. Please keep in mind it takes a few days for grades to be updated once new assignments have been entered. 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: Test and Quizzes	60%
Lab Work and Associated Quizzes	30%
Homework/Class = Activities	10%

Semester grades will be calculated on a 40/40/20 formula.

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

**Contract for Success:** 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. **Please return the signed contract by Thursday July 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**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, unless specifically stated by teacher. 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.

### **COURSEWORK**

1. **Tests & Quizzes:** 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 the teacher website under Assignments or Calendar. Please check these regularly.
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.

4. **Independent Science Research Project** – The required Science Fair project will be discussed in class.

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. **I will also be available for individual tutoring on Mondays after school (3:10-3:40) and Tuesdays before school (6:55-7:20) and by appointment.**

*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's have a great year! ☺*