



HONORS BIOLOGY SYLLABUS
Megan O. McCall, PhD
2024-2025

Course Description:

Honors biology is a high school course designed to increase students' knowledge of concepts, processes, and facts of life and interdependence on matter and energy. The curriculum will help students to develop a meaningful understanding of science in their lives. Throughout the course, students will be given the chance to explore the biological worlds and become scientists by engaging in a variety of tasks such as laboratory experiments, cooperative group activities, article readings, research papers, and projects. Major topics studied in the course include scientific processes, cell physiology, microbiology, biochemistry, bioenergetics, genetics, and embryology

Objectives:

1. To become efficient problem solvers.
2. Gain the knowledge and skills necessary to advance to higher-level sciences.
3. Develop cooperative learning skills and the ability to work as a team.
4. Ability to apply skills developed in class to evaluate problems encountered in everyday life.
5. Develop an appreciation for the natural world.

Required Materials:

Textbook: Biology (online access is provided through MCPSS Clever)
3-ring binder w/notebook paper & dividers [*required daily*]
Sharpened pencils [*required daily*]

\$15.00 Lab Fee (due ASAP)

Grading System:

Your grade will be based on the following percentage scale:

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| 1. Major Assignments (Tests, Quizzes, Assessments, Major Labs) | 60% |
| 2. Minor Assignments (Classwork, Warm Ups, Exit Tickets, etc.) | 40% |

Topics: Based on Alabama State Science Standards - biochemistry, cell structure, chemical and physical cell processes, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, principles of heredity, genetics, molecular genetics, natural selection, and the relationship of organisms to each other and to their environment.

Resources: All daily assignments are posted on Schoology, labs, online text, powerpoint notes provided, practice problems, Alabama Math and Science Teaching Initiative labs, Harvard Science and Cooking Labs, selected websites and more!

Make-Up Work:

If you miss a test, quiz, or class work, you will be assigned a grade of zero in my grade book. All class and homework to be made-up, is due within three school days after your return. Any test & quiz, that must be made-up, should be completed within two weeks. Failure to meet this time limit will result in 10% late points for each day late up to 50%. *Make-up work is your responsibility.* I am happy to work with you as long as you follow up on your assignments with me asap - contact me via Schoology or email. **All make-up tests and quizzes will primarily consist of quantitative questions and will be an alternate format from the original assessment provided.**

Assignments:

Our daily assignments will be posted and completed on Schoology. Additionally, text reminders will often be sent via Remind; therefore, it is essential that you are enrolled in the class' Remind to receive all notifications. JOIN Remind! Text @62fabg8 to 81010

Labs:

Lab is an integral part of the curriculum. Labs reinforce, explain, and facilitate understanding of the chemical principles presented in the classroom. They also enable students the opportunity to learn new skills, develop their cooperative learning behaviors, and strengthen their problem solving techniques. We will be in the lab approximately once every week, and lab activities will correlate with our objectives.

There *is* a lab fee for Honors Biology – it's \$15 per student. This money goes toward purchasing materials that are consumed during the course.

Lab safety is imperative in Biology. If a student is misbehaving in lab, disregarding the procedure, or otherwise endangering him/herself or others, I will not hesitate to remove him/her from the lab area. Full lab safety protocols (Flinn Science) will follow in a separate handout.

Guidelines

Reference our student handbook for additional expectations, discipline, student dress code and behavior.

If you have any questions or need anything, please contact me via email at momccall@mcpss.com or come and see me before you get frustrated if you are stuck on a topic. I am here to help and value your learning!

Both you and your parents should read this syllabus and sign it. Return this portion to me, signed, by August 9, 2024, and place the rest in your notebook.

Student Name printed_____

I/we have read the above syllabus and understand the expectations of the class. I will keep this syllabus in the front of my notebook and use it as a guide throughout the semester. A parent and I have signed this syllabus as a statement of accepting the challenges and responsibilities of this class in order to achieve my greatest academic potential.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____