



Biology Syllabus 2026-2027
Teacher: Mrs. Meagan Borders
Email: meagan.borders@hcbe.net
Phone: 478-218-7537



Course Description

The biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations of the life sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology. This curriculum includes more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students will investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

Course Outline – Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE):

SB1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze the nature of the relationships between structures and functions in living cells.

SB2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze how genetic information is expressed in cells.

SB3. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze how biological traits are passed on to successive generations.

SB4. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to illustrate the organization of interacting systems within single-celled and multi-celled organisms.

SB5. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to assess the interdependence of all organisms on one another and their environment.

SB6. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to assess the theory of evolution.

Required Materials

- 2-inch 3 ring binder
- Notebook paper
- Pencils/pens
- Dividers

Grading

Grades will be updated weekly and available to parents and students via Infinite Campus. **Students and parents should check grades regularly.** This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of each semester. There will be no extra credit given during the course. The *semester average* will be determined as follows:

Major Assessments	45%
Minor Assessments	20%
Daily Work	15%
Final Assessment/EOC	20%

This is an EOC course!

Late Work Policy

Students are expected to communicate with the teacher if work will not be turned in by a given due date. Late work will not be accepted after the unit test.

Tutoring

Tutoring times will be Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:25-7:55, except for days there are scheduled meetings.

Student Chromebooks

All students are issued a district-provided Chromebook for instructional purposes, student engagement, and student learning. Chromebook use is at the direction and discretion of the classroom teacher.

Honor Code

The academic integrity of courses at VHS is of the utmost importance; as such, cheating or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If a student cheats or plagiarizes on any assessment, the result is a zero as a placeholder until the student has had the opportunity to demonstrate learning on an alternate assignment; the teacher must make parent contact. If cheating or

plagiarism occurs on a major assessment, the student should be referred to an administrator for review. Cheating or plagiarism on a major assessment will also result in alternative discipline or in-school suspension. The ISS assignment will be progressively graduated if it is a repeated offense.

VHS Retesting Policy

Students may re-take two major assessments per semester, after completing test corrections and/or tutoring/remediation, except for county math requirements. No re-testing is allowed in AP courses. Additionally, a re-test cannot replace a zero for a task never initially completed. **Re-tests must be completed within 5 school days of the original assessment date.**

Communication

The HCSD Mobile App (Apptegy) will be used to share class announcements, important updates, and reminders. Please log in using the information provided by the school and enable notifications so you don't miss important information

Teacher Procedures and Expectations

Students are expected to always adhere to the VHS Student Code of Conduct.

- Arrive ready for class; be seated and ready to begin when the bell rings.
- Treat everyone with respect; be polite toward the teacher and peers.
- Food and drink other than water are not permitted in the classroom/lab.
- Do not spray perfume, or use products with a strong scent, as this may be disruptive to classmates.
- Take pride in our classroom and lab by keeping it clean; do not write on textbooks and/or desks.
- When others are talking, pay attention and listen; do not talk while others are talking.
- **Personal devices of any kind are not allowed during class; all devices should be turned off and kept in the students' backpack.**

Attendance

- Students should make every effort to be in class each day. If absent, please communicate with the teacher as soon as possible. Canvas will be the best resource to know what work was missed. Additional copies of worksheets will be available in the classroom, while supplies last.
- If a test is missed, it is the student's responsibility to schedule a day to make-up the test within 5 school days. If a lab is missed, it will be the teacher's discretion if an alternate assignment or make-up lab is provided.
- Students have 5 minutes to get from class to class; please use this time wisely. **If you are not in the classroom when the bell rings, you will be marked tardy.**

Consequences

- Minor disruptions/infractions will receive warnings, conferences, and/or parent communication.
- Repeated minor offenses will result in school detention before or after school.
- An office referral will occur for major disruptions/infractions, failure to serve assigned detention, or after repeated detention assignments.

Minor disruptions/infractions progressive discipline system:

- 1st offense – Verbal warning and conference with student
- 2nd offense – Written warning sent home for parent/guardian signature
- 3rd offense – Detention before or after school
- 4th offense – Office referral

Major disruptions/infractions will result in an immediate office referral.

Please return this page to Mrs. Borders no later than Friday, August 7, 2026

Student Name Printed

Class Period

Lab Safety Contract

General Lab Safety Rules

- Follow all written & verbal instructions as provided
- Always wear proper eye/clothing protection.
- Conduct yourself in a responsible & safe manner in the laboratory environment.
- Be knowledgeable of equipment, safety symbols & techniques required for each lab.
- Know where/how to get help in an emergency, including the location of the first aid, eye wash, fire extinguisher, and fire blanket.

Students must pass a lab safety quiz with an 80 or higher to be permitted to participate in lab activities.

I have read, understand, and agree to follow the lab safety rules outlines above, located in the lab safety materials, and any others provided in the future. I will always conduct myself safely & appropriately in the lab environment. I understand that failure to do so may result in not receiving credit for the lab and/or an office referral.

Student Signature

Date

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Parent Acknowledgement

I have read the information provided in the course syllabus and understand the policies, procedures, and expectations. I will support my teacher's efforts to ensure my student is successful in this class. I acknowledge that my student must abide by the lab safety rules as outlined above and any others provided by the teacher. I have contact information to communicate with the teacher if needed:

Email: meagan.borders@hcbe.net

Phone (478) 218-7537

Parent Name Printed

Parent Phone Number

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Email