

Course Syllabus



Instructors Information

- Course : Honors Biology
- Instructor: Mr. James Schreiner
- Phone: (815) 937-3707 X6413
- Web Site: <http://www.bbchs.org>
- E-mail: jschreiner@bbchs.org

Course Materials

- Text: Biology: Prentice Hall, Miller/Levine
- Required Materials: Three Ring Binder, Pen, Pencil, and a willingness to learn.

Course Description

- The **Honors Biology Class** is a detailed and rigorous presentation of modern concepts in life science. Students will examine aspects of human activity: Structure, function, behavior, relationships to the environment, and the molecular structure on which life is based. Topics include: The cell, general chemistry and biochemistry, evolution, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, Mendelian and human genetics, Ecology, and classification. In addition, students will apply scientific methods through various projects and collections along with the **completion of their own original investigation/science project**.
- This class is designed for students who wish Honors Credit in a college preparatory biology class.
- GRADE – 9

Grading Policy

- **General:** All written work is graded for neatness, completeness, accuracy, grammar, and spelling. All work is assigned a point value (see below for details). At the end of the grading period, all points to date are totaled and a percent score is determined for each student by dividing the number of points the student earned by the number of assigned points possible. Letter grades are then assigned based on the following scale:
 - 90 - 100 % of all possible points -----> A
 - 80 - 89 % of all possible points -----> B
 - 70 - 79 % of all possible points -----> C
 - 60 - 69 % of all possible points -----> D
 - Below 60 % of all possible points -----> Failing

- **Tests and Quizzes:** Chapter tests will be given over each major unit and are always announced in advance. Tests are usually worth 100 points. At least one quiz will be given during each chapter of the text or other unit covered. Each quiz will normally be worth 50 points. Some quizzes may **not** be announced in advance. There will be a final exam for each semester. Semester exam review guides are posted online. It is your responsibility to print out a copy and complete. (I will not make copies for you)
- **End of the Year Project:** The “End of the Year” project is worth a considerable amount of points and should be taken very seriously. Many past student final grades have suffered for inadequate performance and/or procrastination in completing this project.
- **Notebooks:** Each student is REQUIRED to have a separate, THREE RING BINDER for science. This binder will contain only science materials. All classroom notes, handouts, homework, and lab write-ups will go directly into the student's science binder. There will be a comprehensive notebook grade each quarter. Scoring is based on completion of all assigned work, inclusion of all handouts, and neatness. Spiral notebooks are not acceptable. Doodling and graffiti is not permitted in student notebooks.
- **Lab Exercises:** Lab exercises accompany most units and may require a written report. Lab exercise write-ups will vary in detail and complexity depending on the experiment and the subject matter. Further information regarding laboratory write-up procedures and requirements will be addressed.
- **Homework:** Assignments are posted on the bulletin board in class. All assignments are turned in at the BEGINNING of the period on the day they are due unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Homework is not accepted late.
- **Extra Credit:** Extra credit is available on an individual basis. If a student is interested he/she must approach the instructor during non-class hours for details. Extra credit assignments must be PRE-APPROVED by the instructor. The student may only work on one extra credit project at a time. There is a maximum of 50 points of extra credit available to each student per quarter. ALL EXTRA CREDIT MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE FINAL WEEK OF THE QUARTER.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to participate in class activities and discussions according to the guidelines established under the Classroom Expectations section. Students may lose points for lack of participation and non-adherence to classroom guidelines. TARDINESS AND CUTS WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF PARTICIPATION POINTS.
- **Cheating:** Any form of cheating will receive a zero; and if necessary, disciplinary action. **This includes the very serious offense of Internet plagiarism.** Copying or sharing homework, laboratory reports, or during a quiz or test is considered cheating. Talking during a quiz or test is considered cheating. During a quiz or test the person providing the information as well as the cheater will receive a zero, so cover your work.

- **Posting of student work:** Some student work will be posted and/or communicated to other students at other schools as part of several collaborative projects. Electronically posted work will not be associated with the student's name unless parental consent is given.
- **Make ups:**
 - **HOMEWORK** is not accepted late. If a student is absent the day a homework assignment is due they are expected to turn the assignment in promptly upon their return to class. Being absent the day assignments are due is NOT an excuse for late homework. If you have a planned absence the day homework assignments are given it is your responsibility to get the assignments from the instructor before your absence. If your absence is unexpected, you are required make –up the assignment per the school handbook.
 - **LAB** write-ups are NOT accepted late unless the student has an excused absence for the day the lab was due. Labs must be turned in the day of a student's return to class or a zero will be given for lab. If a student misses a lab they must rescheduled a time to make-up the missed lab with the instructor upon their return to class. If the student does not arrange this make-up on the first day upon their return to class they will receive a zero on the lab.
 - If a **QUIZ** is missed the student must approach the instructor the day upon their return to class and schedule a make-up. If this is not done the student will receive a ZERO for the missed quiz.
 - On most days I will be available to help students after school. Please feel free to stop by anytime afterschool if you wish extra help.

Classroom Expectations

- **Discipline:** Any necessary disciplinary action, including cheating, will be dealt with in accordance with the BBCHS discipline policy, as described in the Student Parent Handbook.
- **Attendance/Tardy Policy:** 5-points will be deducted for each tardy/unexcused absence along with consequences as outlined in the student handbook.
- **Classroom Rules:**
 - Eating is not permitted. Water or Sports drinks are allowed. No Energy drinks or caffeinated beverages.
 - No teasing, shouting, swearing, disrupting or disrespectful behavior.
 - No throwing of any object in the classroom.
 - Keep your hands, feet, and any other object off other people and their property.

- Remain in your seat or at your lab station unless given permission to leave. The instructor excuses the class at the end of the period, not the bell.
- No grooming during class.
- Come prepared for scheduled class activities. Everyday, students are to be in their seats when the final bell rings. At the beginning of each period, each student is to have the class textbook, writing utensil and binder.
- Laboratory materials become the financial responsibility of the student when checked out for use during the period. Be careful with your equipment.
- Students are expected to clean lab areas following experiments, and to leave their assigned seating area clean.
- Students whose actions are deemed by the instructor to represent a safety hazard during labs will be immediately ejected from the classroom. Stern disciplinary action will follow. Such students may not be permitted to take part in further lab activities.
- Students are expected to pay attention during lecture and help to maintain a distraction-free learning environment. This means that you do not talk to anyone unless it is in direct relation to an assigned activity.
- Students are expected to participate intelligently in class discussions when called upon.
- When class is in session students may not leave the classroom to use the restroom without penalty. If a student requests a bathroom pass during class time and chooses to leave class the student will lose participation points. This policy is enforced to discourage classroom disruptions and encourage the students to use the restroom during the passing period. See the nurse for a pass if you need to leave class for hygienic reasons.
- There is absolutely NO TALKING during tests and quizzes. If a student appears to be talking, or participating in a conversation by listening to someone else who is talking, they will receive a ZERO on the exam. The instructor, and only the instructor, will signal the end of the exam.
- There is absolutely NO TALKING while the instructor is speaking. Suffer severe consequences from this rude and inappropriate behavior.

If your parent/legal guardians have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at school anytime. Leave a message or send an e-mail and I will get back to you.

I encourage all parents/legal guardians to attend Parent-Teacher conferences. I look forward to meeting you.

--- Mr. Schreiner

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I have read the preceding documentation for Mr. Schreiner's _____period HONORS BIOLOGY class, understand the contents, and agree to adhere to the guidelines.

_____ / _____
Student signature / date

_____ / _____
Parent signature / date

After completing the statement of understanding, please check-it-in with your instructor (Point Value = 10).