

# HONORS BIOLOGY 2017-2018

Dr. Frank

Rm. 128

[frankj@mcvts.net](mailto:frankj@mcvts.net)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This biology course is a comprehensive introduction to biology that emphasizes the major themes in biology. The course includes laboratory work and the application of the scientific method is an integral part of the course. This is an honors course developed for the accelerated student. Students at the honors level should be self motivated and able to spend time each night on biology. This may involve homework assignments but more often will be reviewing the day's notes and reading portions of the textbook. Students that do well in this class are strongly encouraged to take the Biology SAT II. This is not an AP Biology class and I do not recommend that ninth graders take the AP exam.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Each student is required to come to class with their biology binder, loose leaf paper, pencil, highlighter, and calculator (inexpensive TI scientific is ideal). Textbooks should be left at home.

## GRADING:

Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in several ways. Grades will be calculated based on exams and major projects (40%), quizzes (20%), labs (20%), homework (15%), and participation and conduct (5%). Letter grades for each marking period are assigned by Genesis based on district grading criteria as presented in the student handbook

Exams will be given periodically at the end of units. They will include both multiple choice as well as essay questions. They will test a students understanding and not simply his or her ability to regurgitate facts.

Short ten minute quizzes will be given for each chapter to assess if students are reviewing their notes between tests.

Homework will be assigned to aid the students in reviewing material. To do well in the class students must do the homework.

Evaluation of a student's performance in lab will involve prelab preparatory assignments, laboratory skills, and post laboratory reports. Students that come to lab unprepared will not be allowed to participate and any student that violates the lab safety rules will lose credit.

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Late work will not be accepted without a school excused absence. Work is collected at the beginning of class and any work submitted after the assignment has been collected from the class is considered late. This includes work handed in that same period. It is the responsibility of students to communicate with the teacher the day that they return from an absence to hand in assignments and obtain missed work regardless of the day the class meets.

Any student in school the day work is due must hand in work that day even if they arrive after biology meets or leave before the class meets. Work not handed in is considered late and will receive no credit.

The participation and conduct portion of the grade includes punctuality, participation, attitude, respect for teacher and peers, and ability to listen and follow instructions. While working in the laboratory, the ability to prepare appropriately for the experiment and follow instructions is critical. Students that do not work carefully in the lab put themselves and others at risk.

**All work** must be neat to receive full credit. Points will be deducted for crossing out. Typed assignments must be 12 point font, double spaced, single sided, and on white paper with black ink.

**CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM** will not be tolerated and will result in the loss of credit for the assignment and potentially administrative action. This applies to all assignments including homework, class work, lab work, quizzes, test, and papers. This applies to all individuals involved in the event including any student that supplied work and those that used it.

Cell phones must be turned OFF during class and will be confiscated if they are visible and given to the appropriate administrator.

*Please seek help when you need it. Come chat with me if you are unsure if you need help. Please do not wait until the last minute! If you cannot meet with me personally please email me.*

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*Please sign below acknowledging that you have read the Honors Biology class syllabus and understand the class policies and procedures.*

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Student

Date

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Parent/Guardian

Date

Parent contact phone or email:

