

# Honors Biology Course Syllabus

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Biology is the study of life. In this course, we will explore various biological topics, including: ecology, cells, genetics, and evolution. This course also focuses on developing critical science process skills such as observing, hypothesizing, inferring, analyzing data, and forming conclusions because science is something we **DO** 😊 Lab work and projects will be a big part of this course as these activities will allow you to demonstrate your growing understandings of concepts and development of skills.

## CORE IDEAS: NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE FRAMEWORK

In Biology, there are 4 core ideas that will be addressed as different topics are explored:

1. **From Molecules to Organisms: Structures & Processes**
2. **Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, & Dynamics**
3. **Heredity: Inheritance & Variation of Traits**
4. **Biological Evolution: Unity & Diversity**

Throughout the year, focus will also be placed on the Crosscutting Concepts and Scientific & Engineering Practices that permeate all disciplines of science:

<b>Crosscutting Concepts</b>	<b>Scientific &amp; Engineering Practices</b>
1. Patterns	1. Asking questions & defining problems
2. Cause & effect: Mechanism & explanation	2. Obtaining, evaluating, & communicating information
3. Scale, proportion, & quantity	3. Planning & carrying out investigations
4. Systems & system models	4. Analyzing & interpreting data
5. Energy & Matter: Flows, Cycles, & Conservation	5. Constructing explanations & designing solutions
6. Stability & change	6. Using mathematics
7. Structure & Function	7. Developing & using models
	8. Engaging in argument from evidence

## COURSE OUTLINE

Semester One	Semester Two
Nature of Science (Ch. 1)-----2 wks	Genetics Continued-----4 wks
Cell Structure & Function (Ch. 3, 28)-----4 wks	Evolution (Ch. 10,11, 16)-----4 wks
Energy in the Cell (Ch. 3-4)-----3 wks	Ecology (Ch. 13-16)-----7 wks
Cell Growth & Development (Ch. 5)-----3 wks	
DNA to Proteins (Ch. 8)-----3 wks	

**\*Times are flexible & subject to change\***

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

pen or pencil (blue or black ink only)	Loose-leaf paper
3 ring binder (1 1/2" is best) w/ 4 dividers	Agenda/Planner
Notebook	Book: Holt McDougal: Biology (2012)

## GRADING

Students will be given several opportunities to demonstrate their mastery of the content in this course. Each semester is divided into two 9-week grading periods. A student's semester grade in the course is determined by examining the evidence of their growth toward meeting each standard.

Students will complete two types of assignments: Preparation and Performance.

Students will be assigned preparation activities on a regular basis which are designed to move students towards achievement of the course standards. It is important to complete preparation activities because the feedback will help the student progress toward mastery. Preparation work and activities are an expected component of the course. **Preparation activities cannot be revised or redone.**

Performance assignments are how students demonstrate their level of mastery of the course standards. Performance assignments will require students to apply the skills they have gained from completing the preparation activities. These performance activities could be tests, quizzes, essays, projects, or some other demonstration of understanding. The final grade will be the comprehensive pattern of student achievement of all the submitted performance work. Performance tasks may address multiple standards at a time. Students may re-attempt (review-revise-redo) a performance activity on a case-by-case basis after meeting with their teacher outside of class.

All students will be taking the course final assessments at the end of semesters 1 and 2. Students that have demonstrated proficiency (letter grade of 'B' or higher) in a course and have met the following criteria will be exempt from the final assessment for the course.

The criteria for students to exempt from the Course Final Assessment are:

1. Must demonstrate proficiency (Letter grade of 'B' or higher)
2. Have 95% attendance or higher in the course (No more than 4 excused absences)
3. No unexcused absences
4. Off the Unfinished Business List (fees and fines)

Grade Entered into IC	Meaning of Grade
Advanced (AD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The student consistently exhibits exceptional mastery of the course objective.</li> <li>Means that you have a deep and rich understanding of complex concepts.</li> <li>Exceeding grade level expectations.</li> </ul>
Proficient (PR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The student provides evidence of mastery of the course objective.</li> <li>Means that you have a solid conceptual understanding of the content.</li> <li>Meeting grade level expectations.</li> </ul>
Basic (BA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The student provides evidence of a beginning understanding of the course objective.</li> <li>Means that you have an understanding of parts of the concept, but you still demonstrate errors in thinking.</li> <li>Just below grade level expectations.</li> </ul>
Minimal (MI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The student attempts the task but provides no evidence of mastery of the objective.</li> <li>Means that you are still learning and make some major errors.</li> <li>Far below grade level expectations.</li> </ul>
No Evidence (O)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was no attempt or plagiarized.</li> <li>Means that you were absent &amp; didn't make up, refused to complete the assessment, or copied off someone else.</li> </ul>

These ratings will be converted to a numeric value and translated into the traditional A, B, C, D, U grades for progress reports.

Standard Level	GPA Point Scale	% Represented in IC	Traditional Letter Grade
AD (Advanced)	4	100 (90-100)	A
PR (Proficient)	3	85 (70-89)	80-89=B 70-79=C
BA (Basic)	2	65 (51-69)	D
MI (Minimal)	1	50 (1-50)	U
O (No evidence)	0	0	U

Students may retake evidence and replace the original grade by completing the following steps:

1. Make corrections to the original evidence.
2. Make an appointment with Ms. Davis to review corrected evidence. Then, we will schedule the replacement evidence.  
**\*\*Appointments are limited! Don't wait until the last minute!\*\***
3. The deadline for all retakes and resubmits is one week prior to the close of grades for the quarter.


## CITIZENSHIP RUBRIC

In addition to your academic grade, you will also receive a citizenship grade for this class. This grade is determined by your behavior in four areas: responsibility, respect, work ethic, and safety.

### RUHS Citizenship Rubric

**“Try your hardest, do your best and give your all.”**

To earn a RESPECT CITIZENSHIP grade you must meet 3 or more criteria in one number band.

	Be <u>R</u> esponsible	Be <u>R</u> espect <u>U</u>	<u>H</u> onor Academics	Be <u>S</u> afe
4	<p>Always</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on time to class</li> <li>phones, electronics are off and unseen</li> <li>food and drinks are not present during class (except water)</li> </ul>	<p>Always</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>respectful of staff, students and school property</li> <li>uses appropriate language</li> <li>demonstrates appropriate school behavior</li> </ul>	<p>Always</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prepared for class</li> <li>participates</li> <li>on task</li> <li>works to potential</li> <li>demonstrates academic integrity</li> </ul>	<p>Always</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>follows school and classroom rules</li> <li>follows staff directives</li> <li>secures personal belongings</li> <li>follows dress code</li> </ul>
3	<p>Consistently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on time to class</li> <li>phones, electronics are off and unseen</li> <li>food and drinks are not present during class (except water)</li> </ul>	<p>Consistently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>respectful of staff, students and school property</li> <li>uses appropriate language</li> <li>demonstrates appropriate school behavior</li> </ul>	<p>Consistently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prepared for class</li> <li>participates</li> <li>on task</li> <li>works to potential</li> <li>demonstrates academic integrity</li> </ul>	<p>Consistently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>follows school and classroom rules</li> <li>follows staff directives</li> <li>secures personal belongings</li> <li>follows dress code</li> </ul>
2	<p>Occasionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on time to class</li> <li>phones, electronics are off and unseen</li> <li>food and drinks are not present during class (except water)</li> </ul>	<p>Occasionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>respectful of staff, students and school property</li> <li>uses appropriate language</li> <li>demonstrates appropriate school behavior</li> </ul>	<p>Occasionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prepared for class</li> <li>participates</li> <li>on task</li> <li>works to potential</li> <li>demonstrates academic integrity</li> </ul>	<p>Occasionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>follows school and classroom rules</li> <li>follows staff directives</li> <li>secures personal belongings</li> <li>follows dress code</li> </ul>
1	<p>Rarely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on time to class</li> <li>phones, electronics are off and unseen</li> <li>food and drinks are not present during class (except water)</li> </ul>	<p>Rarely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>respectful of staff, students and school property</li> <li>uses appropriate language</li> <li>demonstrates appropriate school behavior</li> </ul>	<p>Rarely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prepared for class</li> <li>participates</li> <li>on task</li> <li>works to potential</li> <li>demonstrates academic integrity</li> </ul>	<p>Rarely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>follows school and classroom rules</li> <li>follows staff directives</li> <li>secures personal belongings</li> <li>follows dress code</li> </ul>

## SCHOOL-WIDE INITIATIVES

In this class, we will be doing a few things consistently to support your overall academic development. Three things that will be implemented regularly are:

- Achieve 3000: Online program to support your disciplinary literacy
- Close-Reading with Annotation
- Writing using Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning model

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

### Behavior:

- I expect that you follow all rules as outlined in the MPS Student Rights and Responsibilities, RUHS Handbook, and Laboratory Safety Sheet. In particular, please make sure your electronics (i.e. – **cell phones & ipods**), headgear, and food & beverage are put away. Plastic water bottles are permitted.
- Students are expected to abide by all laboratory safety rules. Failure to do so will result in removal from the lab. Student will not be permitted to make up the lab.

**IN A NUTSHELL, BRING YOUR THINKING CAP AND MATURITY EVERY DAY 😊**

### **Assignments:**

- Preparation assignments are a regular part of this course & should be done when class begins.
- Preparation assignments will not be accepted late.
- DO YOUR OWN WORK, PLEASE 😊 (No plagiarism)
- Please write your name, hour, and title of the assignment in the ***upper right corner***.
- During tests, all items (except writing utensils) must be put up in the front of the room.

### **Attendance & Absences:**

- You need to be in your seat and ready to learn **before** the bell rings.
- Attendance is important! We will do many discussions and labs. It is your responsibility to schedule make-up times for work.
- Students will only be given 3 passes to leave the room (except Hr 7-no passes). All personal business, including using the restroom and going to lockers should be taken care of prior to class.
- If you're absent, check the bin for any missing assignments. Get the journal and any notes from a classmate or google classroom. You have 3 days to turn in make-up work. If there was an assignment due on the date of your absence, turn it in the inbox upon your return so it is not late.
- Quizzes and tests are announced in advance. You are expected to take them even if you were absent the day before. If you are absent on the day of a test, you must schedule a make-up time within 3 days.
- PLEASE TALK TO ME ABOUT ANY EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES. **WE ARE FAMILY**, AND I AM HERE TO HELP YOU. HOWEVER, I CAN'T HELP IF YOU DON'T TALK TO ME.

### **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Students are expected to follow the school and class rules at all times. Chronic or serious infractions will result in referral to an administrator and a parent contact. Minor infractions will result in:

1. A verbal warning
2. A time-out and/or seat change
3. A 15 minute conference to be served after school.
4. A phone call home
4. A 45 minute detention to be served after school.

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

1ST OFFENSE: VERBAL WARNING

2ND OFFENSE: PHONE TAKEN FOR CLASS PERIOD

3RD OFFENSE: PHONE TAKEN FOR THE DAY

4TH OFFENSE: PHONE GIVEN TO ADMINISTRATOR