Honors Biology Syllabus **Instructor:** Mrs. Lamberth

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**Room #:** 255

**Course Overview:**

The Biology curriculum is designed for the student to gain an understanding and deepen knowledge of biological science. This includes, but is not limited to: the cell, the molecular basis of heredity, biological evolution, the interdependence of organisms, matter, energy and organization in living systems, and the adaptive responses of organisms. Honors Biology is designed to give the student a more challenging and in-depth experience of the *North Carolina Essential Standards curriculum* in Biology. In Honors Biology, students are expected to work **independently**on a variety of assignments and accept greater responsibility for their learning. Students are expected to: design and carry out several independent investigations of biological questions, read and report on recent research in biology, and demonstrate a more in-depth conceptual understanding of all biology objectives.

**Course Text:**

*Prentice Hall: Biology*

**Required Materials:**

3-ring binder (at least 2”)

Loose-leaf paper

Writing Utensils

Optional: colored pencils, highlighters

\*A signed laboratory safety agreement is required to begin any of the required labs.\*

**\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\***

**Biology is a North Carolina EOC tested course. Due to standards set by the state, every student enrolled in Biology MUST take the state issued EOC exam. This exam counts as 20% of the final grade.**

**Student Expectations:**

Students are expected to adhere to all county and school regulations stated in the student handbook, as well as classroom rules, in a respectful and proper manner. A student’s failure to do so will result in disciplinary action taken by the teacher and/or administration.

**Grading and Assignments**

Assignments will be a combination of the following: homework, labs, tests, quizzes, projects, midterm exam, final exam, and various daily activities. The grading policy is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tests | 60% |
| Labs | 30% |
| Minor Assessments | 10% |

\*\*The EOC will count 20% of the final grade. This means each quarter will represent 40% of the final grade.\*\*

**Attendance Policy:**

This is a fast paced course. Every day that is missed will result in a learning gap. All excused absences require a note that has been verified by the office in order to receive time to complete missed assignments without penalty.

**Tardy Policy:**

Students are expected to be in class on time. All students who enter the classroom after the bell must have a note from a teacher or administrator. Unexcused tardies will result in lunch detention. Frequent tardies may result in more serious consequences.

**Class Rules:**

* Be in your seat before the bell rings. You will be counted tardy if you are not in your seat when the bell rings. Immediately begin working on the warm-up activity assigned for the day.
* If you are absent, check the missed assignments bin for handouts and check with a classmate for the notes and assignments given. You have two days to make up the work and take any test/quiz that you missed without late penalty. If you miss a lab, check with the teacher to see if materials are still available to make up the lab after school, or you will be given an alternate assignment, which is located near the missed assignments bin.
* Create a respectful and safe classroom environment. Treat other class members with respect and conduct yourself in adherence with school rules, including dress code. Safety is a priority during labs. Any student who lacks a serious, careful, and quiet manner during laboratory procedures will be removed from the lab and receive a grade of zero. Lab safety also includes that there is **NO FOOD** or anything edible allowed in the classroom. Bottled water is permitted.
* Take responsibility for your behavior. If work is missed, you are responsible for getting the missed assignments and completing them in a timely manner. If a behavior is unacceptable, accept responsibility for the behavior and use the consequence as a motivation to improve. If a grade is unacceptable, complete the work or improve study habits to bring up the grade. Understand that high school is preparation for becoming an independent adult in society, so expectations are held at a higher standard.

**Cell Phone/Device Policy:**

LRHS has adopted the Wake County Bring Your Own Device policy beginning with the spring semester of the 2016-2017 school year. A sign will be located within the classroom to indicate to students the level of technology integration that will occur that day. A red sign will indicate that devices are to be off and put away for the class period, yellow means that devices may be on and ready but “parked” face down on student desks during the class, and green means that devices may be out and used during class instruction for that day. Students that do not adhere to the classroom policy and instructions of the teacher will receive consequences following the school procedures for disruptive classroom behavior and not following the instructions of a staff member. All guidelines for appropriate technology use outlined in the LRHS and WCPSS Student handbook still apply. Parents that do not want their students to participate in this program may sign the “opt-out” form that will be distributed at the beginning of the semester.

BYOD Rules:

* Students must access Wifi through the WAKE-BYOD network
* Students must bring their own headphones if any material with audio is accessed
* Students may not charge their phones using classroom outlets (portable chargers are allowed)

**Additional Information and Resources:**

Due to the nature of the Biology class and the fast pace of the course, resources that can be accessed at home or out of class should be utilized during the semester. Students will have access to a course webpage with course information, an upcoming events calendar, and powerpoints of unit notes.

Additional help will be offered during weekly SMART lunch sessions according to the schedule posted by the school. All students receiving a D or F in the class are required to attend weekly SMART lunch sessions. Extra sessions may be posted if there is availability during the week.

All assignments that are submitted are expected to be turned in on time and complete. Work that is due during a unit will not be accepted after the unit test.