

# Honors Biology

Northwood High School  
919 University Blvd., West  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
2012-2013

**Northwood's mission is to ensure that ALL students have the opportunity to succeed in a rigorous curriculum, including the completion of a learning experience in a college-level environment.**

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## Course Description

The goal of Biology is for students to understand the complexity of the living world, including the functions and processes of organisms, their interactions with one another and the environment, and to respect the living world. This course includes a High School Assessment (HSA), which students must take and pass in order to graduate.

## Course Standards

In this course we will:

- Use relationships discovered in the lab to explain phenomena observed outside of the laboratory.
- Carry out scientific investigations effectively and employ the instruments, systems of measurement, and materials of science appropriately.
- Use models and computer simulations to extend our understanding of scientific concepts.
- Use appropriate methods for communicating in writing and orally the processes and results of scientific investigation.
- Show that connections exist both within the various fields of science and among science and other disciplines including math, social studies, language arts, fine arts, and technology.
- Be able to explain the correlation between the structure and function of biologically important molecules and their relationship to cell processes.
- Understand the role and influence of humans on the environment.

Cross-Curricular Skills:

- Inquiry and Problem Solving
- Collaboration
- Reading and Writing

## Course Content

Semester 1- Biology A		Semester 2- Biology B	
Ecology	5 weeks	Inheritance	3 weeks
Chemistry of Life	3 weeks	Applied Genetics	3 weeks
Cells	4 weeks	Evolution	3 weeks
Energetics	2 weeks	Systems in Living Things	5 weeks
Nucleic Acid and Protein Synthesis	3 weeks	Systematics	2 weeks

*\*In addition to the topics listed above studies of the scientific method and experimental design will be an intricate part of this course.*

**The Biology HSA will be administered on May \_\_\_\_\_, 2013 for all Biology students.**

### Student Materials:

- A composition notebook to be kept in the classroom
- A binder or folder
- A planner or organizer to record assignment due dates (Northwood agenda is fine)
- Writing utensil

\*If you have any concerns about being prepared for this class please see me or email me.

\*While we may use books in class periodically a book will not be issued to students for this course. If you feel strongly that you need a book for independent study or reference please see me and I will gladly issue you a book..

### Grading Policy

Per MCPS policy grades are broken down in to the following categories and percentages:

- Formative 50% (Independent Work, Labs, Vocabulary Journals)
- Summative 40% (Tests, Projects, BCRs, Quizzes)
- Practice/Prep 10% (Any work assigned for a completion or participation grade: Warmups, Some homework assignments, Review sheets)

When using points or percentages, a teacher assigns a grade no lower than 50% to the assessment. If a student does not work on the assessment, the teacher will assign a zero. If a teacher determines the student did not attempt to meet the basic requirements of the assessment, the teacher may assign a zero.

Please Note: Extra credit will not be assigned. All students will be held accountable for knowing all material being assessed. Final semester grades are based on quarter and exam performance as well as grade trends exhibited by the student.

### Punctuality

All students are expected to be on time. On time means in your assigned seat, quiet, and ready for class to begin *when the bell rings* .You must have a pass to enter the classroom after the bell.

### Due Dates/Deadlines

- Due dates/deadlines for all assignments will be on the SAME DAY
- Assignments not turned in on the due date/deadline will be given a **ZERO**
- **Zero grades are NOT reassessable**

### Attendance and Make-up Work

Daily attendance to class is necessary to achieve at the highest level. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to make up missed work by the deadline. *If your absence is unexcused, you will NOT be permitted to make up work.* For an excused absence the following guidelines will apply:

- Previously assigned assignments are due the day you return to school
- An excused note is due the day you return to school
- Assignments will be held and graded when the absence is excused
- All make up work that you missed can be found in the make up bin in the classroom or on the course website
- See me during office hours to arrange a due date for any assignments that were assigned while you were out

## **Reteaching and Reassessments**

Students do not always master the objective on the first try; therefore, students will have the opportunity to resubmit assessments for reassessments given the following:

- Only ONE formative assignment per unit may be reassessed.
- Only assignments turned in on the due date are reassessable.
- Reassessments must be written on a separate sheet with the correct answer and a short analysis of *why* your original answer was wrong. Reassessments must be stapled to the *back* of the original assignment.
- Reassessments must be made up IN THE CLASSROOM, DURING OFFICE HOURS.
- Reassessments must be submitted BEFORE the unit test for which they are assigned.

## **Edline/Course Website**

Part of being an active participant in this course includes checking your grade on Edline, and assignments on the course website frequently. It is my recommendation that you check Edline at least once per week, and the course website as needed for make up work and assignments.

## **Behavioral Expectations**

I only have one behavioral expectation...

~~~RESPECT- your teacher, your peers, your classroom, yourself~~~

## **Consequences**

Verbal warnings, student/teacher conferences, behavior reflections, parent phone calls, or office write ups may be issued to deal with incidences of disrespect.

## **Laboratory Expectations**

All students are expected to follow all laboratory safety rules outlined in the MCPS Laboratory Safety Contract. Failure to follow lab rules will result in an automatic zero for the assignment, a phone call home, and a loss of lab privileges.

## **Academic Honesty**

All students are expected to follow MCPS and Northwood High School guidelines for academic honesty.

## **Hall Passes**

You may not leave the classroom in the first or last 15 minutes of class, and NO passes will be issued during 4<sup>th</sup> period. (NHS Policy). Hall passes will only be issued for emergencies and only with an agenda book. Please plan accordingly.

## **Office Hours**

- Lunch: Everyday
- After School: Only by Appointment
- Please DO NOT attempt to discuss grades with me in class. Grades will only be discussed during office hours provided you bring a current print out of your edline report. In addition, DO NOT interrupt my other classes for any reason. In an effort to divide my attention fairly to all of my students, I will only assist you during your class period, or during office hours.