

Biology Honors Syllabus Rules and Regulations

Ms. Sarah M. Thompson

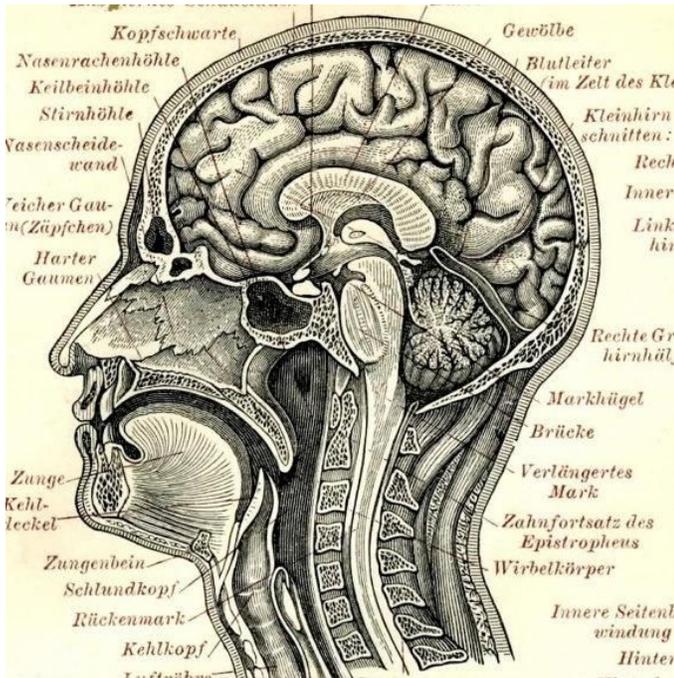
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Remind class code: @nwbiohon

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Biology Honors is a one-year college preparatory course designed to provide high school students a background with the concepts in the field of biological sciences. Honors, involves even greater depth and independent study of the material covered. Topics to be covered are laboratory skills, cell biology, genetics, evolution, ecology, and human physiology. Attention is given to the important principles that provide a basis for understanding living organisms and their relationship to the environment. The purpose of this course is to provide advanced exploratory experiences, and laboratory and real-life applications in the biological sciences. All the rules and regulations of New West Charter will be adhered to in this classroom.

NGSS Topics of Study

1st Semester

Unit 1 – From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Chapters 1, 8, and 28

Unit 2 – Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Chapters 5, 6 and 7

Unit 3 (part 1) – Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

Chapters 2 and 4

2nd Semester

Unit 3 (part 2) – Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

Chapter 13

Unit 4 – Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

Chapters 14, 15, and 16

Unit 5 – Natural Selection and Evolution

Chapters 10, 11, and 12

Daily Required Materials

It is highly recommended that students in this class come prepared with certain materials that would assist in their organization, readiness, and ultimate success. Note that many of the supplies for Biology will be stored in the classroom to assure they are ready for use each day.

1. Spiral 5 subject notebook w/ Durable POLY Cover.

- \$5 @ Staples.com
- Item # 892277

2. Jumbo Glue Sticks

3. Box of 12 Colored Pencils

4. 3" X 3" Post it notes

5. 2 Highlighters (different colors needed)

6. Dry Erase Markers

7. Sharpened pencils, pens

**** I prefer students "donate" items #2-7 to communal use within the Biology classroom, as it ensures all students have needed supplies every day.**

Honors Reading Materials

We will be reading a full novel in Biology Honors this year. During Semester 1 we will read articles from Scientific American, National Geographic, and the Atlantic that relate to the Biology topics we are discussing. These texts are written at and above a 9th grade level. They will require critical thinking, and often the determination to read multiple times for deeper understanding. I will announce which title we will tackle this year before Thanksgiving break. The book and accompanying project will be assigned before Winter Break and will be due at the beginning of May.

Honors Philosophy

Honors classes address the same standards but go deeper into the content, at a much faster pace, and have higher expectations for both the quality and quantity of student work. In short, the Honors classes are more rigorous and push student learning above and beyond grade-level. They are designed for students who love learning and seek admission to elite colleges and universities. You are required to maintain a B average or better. This course will begin to prepare you for college, so I require you to take the initiative in dealing with your education and behavior. This course requires a great deal of inquiry on your behalf. You will not be a seat warmer in this class. You will participate and take an active role in the course. You will not copy your peers. Any student who does not abide by the Honors philosophy will receive recommendation to move out of the course.

Guidelines:

- 1.** Be prepared for class. Bring the correct tools for learning every day. You will need your interactive Biology notebook, paper, and a pencil or pen.
- 2.** I expect all students to respect and follow the school policies.
- 3.** Be respectful. Be respectful of your school, self, and others. Leave all poor attitudes outside.
- 4.** Be on time. Have yourself in your assigned seat before the bell rings.
- 5.** All cell phones will remain off throughout the duration of the class period.

Grading/Grading Scale

I have the expectation that both students and parents will be checking Infinite Campus reports once a week. I will be posting new grades to the electronic grade book at least once every 7-10 days, depending on the unit we are covering. Please feel free to email me any questions you may have regarding posted grades.

New West Science Department Grading Weights

20% Performance Tasks - hands on demonstration of understanding. Performance tasks include design challenges, group projects, and inquiry activities.

20% Science and Engineering Practices - Online simulations, physical modeling core concepts, and observation labs are incorporated in the course. This can also include model creation, calculations, research, simulations, etc.

20% Core Idea Practice - in-class work, homework, knowledge acquisition, vocabulary.

20% Assessment - written, or other non-performance tasks. Unit tests consist of multiple choice, critical thinking, and short answer responses.

20% Cumulative Semester Final - consists of multiple choice, analysis, and performance tasks.

New West High School Grading Scale

90% - 100% -> **A**

80% - 89% -> **B**

70% - 79% -> **C**

60% - 69% -> **D**

59% - 0% -> **F**

**Any student earning below a 70% is in jeopardy of not passing. Summer school or a repeat of the course the following year will be mandatory

Environmental Concerns:

- **Stay in your assigned seat.** Do not move without permission. This is for your own safety. Some students get lost and cannot find their way back.
- **Raise your hand if you have a comment or information to relay to the class or myself.** This is a fabulous science class, not a Lakers' game.
- **Trash is to be disposed of appropriately.** The floor is not an appropriate option.
- **Personal grooming is to be completed in the restroom between classes.** Mrs. Thompson teaches science at New West Charter, not the Marinello School of Beauty.
- **Be aware that if I cannot read your work, I cannot grade it.** I do not work for the FBI in handwriting analysis. Conclusion? No grade.
- **Names on papers: No name = no grade.** If you do not care about receiving credit for your hard work, neither do I. All no name papers will be placed in the "no name folder of shame" with a 5pt. deduction.

Interventions

Any student who has trouble maintaining appropriate behavior can expect any of the following interventions. The purpose of these actions is to stress the importance or to gain assistance in influencing appropriate classroom/lab behavior. The following interventions may be used (not necessarily in this order): verbal warning, student/teacher conference, seat change, phone call home, detention, student/parent/teacher conference, referral to Assistant Principal or Principal, removal from the classroom.

Cheating

There is a **ZERO tolerance policy for cheating** in this classroom. Students caught cheating will receive an automatic zero on the assignment or assessment and parents will be contacted. Students that aid in cheating (i.e. allowing someone to copy your work,) will also be penalized. Plagiarism is addressed as a very serious form of cheating. The importance of citations and how to credit work correctly will be addressed in class.

Laboratory Experiments

You and your parent or guardian, prior to working in the lab will sign a lab safety contract. **You will NOT be permitted to work in the lab until that contract is signed.** No credit or make-ups will be granted for labs missed due to an unsigned contract. It is necessary for all students to strictly adhere to the lab safety guidelines.

Cell Phones

There will be times in class where I will allow the use of electronic devices to look up information pertinent to class, check grade reports, and take pictures of lab results or posted classroom messages. If a cell phone is being used at any other time, I will confiscate it. The phone will be delivered to the Assistant Principal or Principal so that the infraction can be dealt with.

Passes

The school gives each student enough time to use the restroom during passing. It is up to the individual student to take advantage of that time. If you chose not to use that time wisely, that is of your concern. If medical reasons deem you a more flexible bathroom policy, please present documentation or have a parent/guardian conference with me immediately. Emergencies also arise and I understand that. They will be dealt with as they come up. There are two Emergency passes found at the end of this syllabus that can be used during the semester. They can be cashed in at the end of the semester for 2 pts each.

Substitutes

If I am unable to be in class, a substitute will carry out instructions left by me. Work assigned is to be turned in, and your behavior is to be exemplary.

Library Cards

I am requiring that all students have access to the FREE resources provided to us by the Los Angeles Public Library. There is a button located at www.ThompsonScience.com, that will take you directly to the borrowers information page. Library Cards are free to residents of California. If you are under the age of eighteen, identification is not required. Your parent or guardian's signature on the library card application is accepted instead of identification.

QuizEgg.com

You will be receiving information at the end of the first week on how to register for the weekly online reading quizzes. These quizzes are timed and you will be locked out once you have taken the quiz. These quizzes are intended to help prepare you for similar college experiences, and test your comprehension of the text. I will likely know if you have just skimmed the text. Students will be given a window of at least 2 days to take the quiz once it goes live. I will be using REMIND to send reminders of when quizzes go live and when they expire. Quizzes can be made up at any time, however; only HALF of the earned value will be assigned.

Make-up Policy

If you miss a day of class, you will be responsible for coming to me the day you return, to make it up.. If the work assigned is not completed by the new assigned date, a zero will be issued for the assignment. If a test or quiz is missed, a make-up will be issued **after school**, the day of your return.

Late Work

Late work will **NOT** be accepted!

Homework

Homework for this class will vary from week to week, as it is often an extension of what you are able to complete in class. Homework for this course will be meaningful and a review intended to assist in the retention of the standards being covered. Please review New West's Homework policy, found in the student handbook. Those students who do not complete assigned homework will be issued a lunch/after school detention to work on the missed assignment.

Remind.com

Remind is a FREE app that allows me to easily communicate with both parents and students via text messaging, without exchanging numbers. Text the class specific code found at the beginning of the syllabus to **(669) 800-5650**.

Extra Help

If you are struggling with a topic we are covering or an assignment that was given, please come and see me during Lunch. I will post weekly which days I will be available for additional help should you need assistance (2-3 days a week). Please take advantage of this resource!

Lab Donation

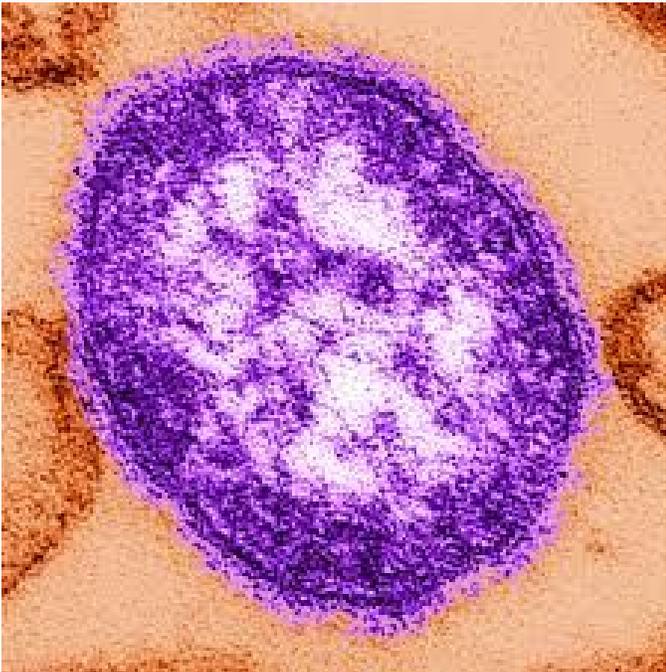
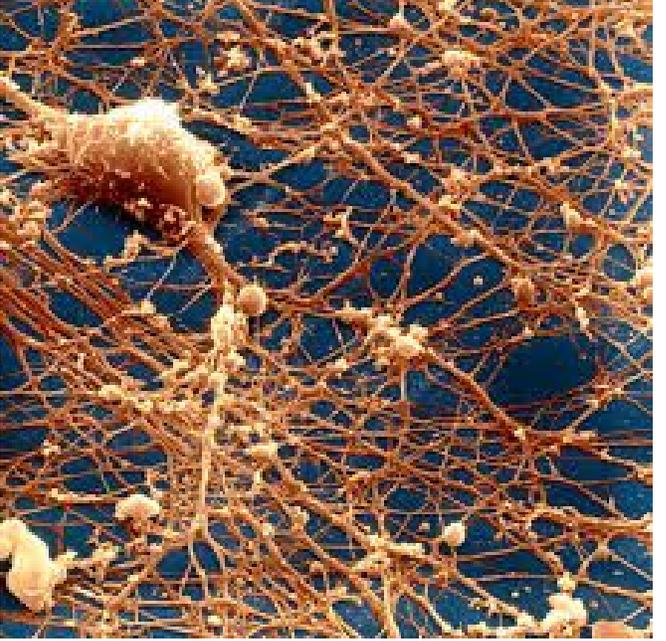
Students in Biology will be given a number of opportunities to advance their understanding of fundamental concepts while developing essential skills during laboratory experiences. We do not require fees and we do not mandate costs, but we simply cannot schedule all the projects and activities we believe are beneficial for student learning in this course without the generous contributions and donations of parents and the business community. Any charitable contributions or donations offered for our program are greatly appreciated. They will go a long way toward advancing the skills and giving students a wider variety of experiences. Please be aware that no student will be precluded from participating in any labs or activities based on their choice not to take part in any donation program.

I AM RECOMMENDING A \$10 DONATION TOWARD LAB SUPPLIES PER STUDENT

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE SYLLABUS IN ITS ENTIRETY, PLEASE GO TO THOMPSONSCIENCE.COM AND CLICK ON THE LINK FOR THE ELECTRONIC STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE, FOUND ON THE HOME PAGE. YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM WITH YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN!

<p>Semester 1 Emergency Pass</p> <hr/> <p>Student Name _____</p> <p>Cash in at the end of the semester for 2pts</p>	<p>Semester 1 Emergency Pass</p> <hr/> <p>Student Name _____</p> <p>Cash in at the end of the semester for 2pts</p>	<p>Semester 1 QuizEgg Pass</p> <hr/> <p>Student Name _____</p> <p>Exempt one QuizEgg</p> <hr/> <p>Put the Quizegg # you are exempting on the line above.</p>
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-----Cut and tape the above passes into your Biology notebook-----

 <p>Micrograph #1 _____</p>	 <p>Micrograph #2 _____</p>
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Bonus: Correctly Identify the following two micrographs for 2 Thompson Tickets. We will be discussing both in much greater detail this year.

