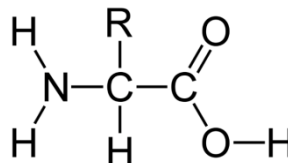


Honors Biology Syllabus Mrs. Cannistraci



Course Description– In this class, students will explore the fundamental concepts of biology with specific emphasis on science process skills, biochemistry, structure and function, genetics, evolution, and ecology. In order to achieve mastery of the material, students can expect a variety of activities including – discussions, labs, projects, demonstrations, learning guides, PowerPoint presentations and videos.

Grading Procedures – Point values will be assigned to tests, projects, quizzes, homework, notes, activities, bell ringers and labs. At the end of the nine weeks, the percentages will be converted into letter grades according to the district’s grading policy. You have the opportunity to retake one test per nine weeks. However, you must retake the test before school, after school or during advisory within one week from when the test was returned. The test retake will then be averaged with the student’s original test score to get the final test grade. Homework is due at the beginning of the class period. Homework turned in late will be reduced 10% and will not be accepted after the test.

Projects – I feel projects are an excellent method for evaluating a student’s understanding of a concept; therefore, you will be required to complete several projects throughout the year. When a project is assigned, you will be given an informative paper with specific directions, a scoring sheet or rubric, and a specific due date. Because projects require more time and effort, they will be assigned higher point values.

Learning Guides – To help you with note taking and organization, I have prepared learning guides for you to take notes on and to use as a study tool. These should be reviewed every night as they contain the major concepts for the test.

Requirements – Every student is required to have a 3 ringed binder for this class (preferably a 2 inch 3 ringed binder or larger). The binder should be labeled with the student’s name and period.

Absences – If you know in advance that you will miss class (school activity, scheduled doctor’s appointment, etc), please see me ahead of time to get the missed work. Also, any work due on that date must be turned in before you leave to not be considered late. In the event of an unanticipated excused absence, the student will get the same number

of days to make up the work that he/she was out of school. Any work due on the date of the excused absence will not be due until the student returns to school. Any assignment that is missed due to an unexcused absence will automatically be deducted by 50%.

Student Expectations – In order to create a positive learning atmosphere, certain behavior is expected. The student expectations are listed below.

1. Come to class prepared everyday – writing utensil, 3 ringed binder, and learning guide.
2. Be in your seat working on the bell ringer by the late bell
3. Act in a respectful manner
4. Complete all assigned work
5. Work to the best of your ability

Lab Expectations- When working in the lab, safety will be of utmost importance. To start, each student must earn an “A” on the lab safety quiz before he/she can perform any experiments. If a student is not following the safety rules and is presenting a danger to him/herself or others, then he/she will be removed from the lab that day and will receive a zero. It will be at the discretion of the teacher when and/or if the student may return to the lab room. If a student is permanently barred from the lab room, then he/she will get alternative assignments to complete in an alternative location.

Extra Help – This course will be a challenging course. If you need additional help, please do not hesitate to ask me. I am available for help before school, after school and during my planning period, almost every day.

Please sign below indicating that you have read and understand the information included in the syllabus. Then, this form will remain in the student’s 3 ringed binder for future reference.

Student’s First and Last Name

Date

Parent’s or Guardian’s First and Last Name

Date