



Honors Biology

2024/2025

Instructor information

Instructor	Email	Remind Course Codes
Jenee Mora	Jenee.Mora@yourcharlotteschools.net	Period 2 - @hbiomora2 Period 6 - @hbiomora6 Period 7 - @hbiomora7

General information

Description

Welcome to Honors Biology! This course is designed to give students a hands-on, real-life experience into the world around them. Throughout the year, you will dive deeply into the principles and mechanisms that govern living organisms, from the molecular and cellular levels to complex ecosystems. Based on the scientific method, this program is designed to target and improve students' scientific process skills: predicting, inferring, separating and controlling variables, comparing and contrasting, problem solving, using numbers and collecting, recording, organizing and interpreting data. Students will be encouraged to actively participate in discussions, perform experiments, and apply their knowledge to solve problems.

Expectations of Employability Skills

- **Communicate:** Effectively and respectfully communicate with teacher and peers.
- **Work Ethic:** Be productive while in class and complete required tasks.
- **Problem-Solve:** Utilize available resources to solve daily challenges.
- **Detail-oriented:** Submit work that has been reviewed and corrected for common mistakes.
- **Time Management:** Effectively budgets time with consideration of other obligations to ensure short- and long-term assignments are completed.

Classroom Rules

- No cell phones, earbuds, or electronic devices used during instructional time
- Show respect for yourself, others, and your school at all times
- Get your start-up binder and be ready to start class as soon as the bell rings
- Use the weekly outlines posted in Canvas to stay informed about assignments and assessments

Course materials

Required materials

- Headphones that are compatible with Chromebooks (a standard 3.5mm headphone jack)
- Internet access for online assignments in Canvas
- 3-ring Binder ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch) with 6 dividers for recommended organization method

Required text

Title: "Biology," Copyright 2019

Author: Miller & Levine

Grade Policy

Weighted Categories

In this course, we will be utilizing a “weighted categories” grading system. This means that the work you do is categorized by the type (see chart) and assigned a percentage of the total grade. As you monitor your grade in FOCUS, pay attention to the grade you have in each category. This will allow you to see in which areas you are performing well and in which areas you may need to improve.

Quarter grade = (overall assignment grade x .25) + (overall KC grade x .25) + (overall test grade x .50)

Semester grade = (quarter 1 x .35) + (quarter 2 x .35) + (EOC grade converted to percent x .3)

Category	Percent of Grade	Average number per quarter
Assignments	25	20
Knowledge Checks <i>(can use notes)</i>	25	5
Tests <i>(can't use notes)</i>	50	3

Make Up Work

Completion Deadline

In accordance with our school policy, students are expected to submit assignments by the designated due dates. However, we understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise that could hinder the timely completion of work. It is the STUDENT's responsibility to collect any missed work. Per county policy, a student will have two days to make up work from one absence. Students with an excused absence will not incur a deduction in points within this timeframe but unexcused students may have up to 30% deducted. **Late submissions will not be accepted past three weeks from the original due date at the discretion of the teacher and with possible point deductions.** Students need to communicate any difficulties they encounter in meeting deadlines with their teachers as soon as possible. This policy aims to foster responsibility and accountability while still providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate their learning and mastery of course material.

Test Repair

At our school, we believe in the importance of continuous learning and improvement. Therefore, all students are provided with the opportunity to make test repairs following their initial assessment. This policy allows students to reflect on their performance, identify areas for improvement, and strive for mastery of course content. It's essential to note that this opportunity is not extended to essays or projects that involve rough drafts or progress checkpoints, as these assignments already provide ample opportunity for revision and feedback. Students have **one week** from the date of receiving their graded test to initiate the repair process. Repair sessions may be scheduled before or after school, but not during regular class time. Upon successful completion of the repair, students will earn points at the discretion of the teacher. This provides a tangible incentive for engagement in the improvement process and reinforces the value of ongoing learning and growth.

Attendance

Attendance is vital for student success and engagement in our learning community. As per our school policy, students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually. In the event of unavoidable absences, it is the responsibility of the student and their guardians to notify the school promptly. **Students who miss more than 20% of instruction will be prohibited from participating in school events such as extracurricular activities i.e., homecoming, prom, athletics, band, ROTC, theatre, and chorus.** Research has shown that 10% or more of instructional time missed by students (Pre-K to grade 12) is an early warning indicator for possible academic struggles; this measure is used to define chronic absenteeism nationwide. Florida Statute 1003.24 and School Board Policy 5200.

After the first seven days of absences, a letter will be issued to the student and their parent/guardian as a reminder of the importance of consistent attendance. This communication serves to encourage students to prioritize their education and take proactive steps to address any barriers to attendance they may be facing.

Should a student accumulate ten or more days of absences, a second letter will be issued, emphasizing the need for immediate action to improve attendance, the need for documentation, and the potential consequences of continued absenteeism.

***Please note that for AICE and AP courses, a student who misses more than 20% of period attendance will be responsible for the cost of the assessment and possible removal from the class.**

Furthermore, it is crucial to note that excessive unexcused absences will result in a significant impact on academic performance. Any assignments or assessments missed during unexcused absences will incur a penalty of up to 30% off their grade. This policy underscores the importance of regular attendance and emphasizes the correlation between consistent attendance and academic success. It is our collective responsibility to support students in maintaining attendance habits that foster their learning and development.

Science Fair

Honors biology students have the opportunity to participate in science fair. See me as soon as possible if you are interested; we hold Lemon Bay's science fair in November. This school-based fair is used to select entrants into the Edison Regional Science Fair in Fort Myers. The selected projects will be entered into the regional science fair in January, with the possibility to be awarded scholarships, summer research fellowships, and cash prizes.

End of Course (EOC) EXAM

The Florida Department of Education has implemented a Biology EOC to measure student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for this biology course. This is a computer-based assessment that will be given to every biology student in the state of Florida. You must pass the EOC to graduate with Scholar Designation on your diploma.

The EOC covers content from the whole year and will count as **30% of your overall grade.**

This means your Semester 1 & 2 grades will not be determined until after your EOC results are entered in FOCUS (usually over the summer). You will have a * on your report card until then.

Topic Outline (these are the headers for your dividers)

Semester 1

Unit 1: The Nature of Science = scientific method

Unit 2: Biochemistry = basic chemistry, properties of water, macromolecules, enzymes

Unit 3: Cells = cell theory, different cell types, structure and function of organelles and membrane

Unit 4: Cellular Energetics = photosynthesis, cellular respiration, fermentation

Unit 5: Plant Structure and Function = basic anatomy of vascular plants and associated functions

Unit 6: Cellular Reproduction = DNA replication, mitosis, cancer

Semester 2

Unit 7: Human Reproduction = meiosis, karyotypes, reproductive anatomy and pregnancy

Unit 8: Genetics = Punnett squares, different modes of inheritance, pedigrees

Unit 9: Molecular Genetics = protein synthesis, biotechnology

Unit 10: Evolution = natural selection, hominine evolution, origin of life

Unit 11: Classification = taxonomy of living organisms, viruses, bacteria

Unit 12: Human Anatomy = human systems: immune, cardiovascular, parts of the brain

Unit 13: Ecology = population and community ecology, ecosystems, nutrient cycles, human impact