**Honors Biology**

Rick Harabin

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**Course Description**

Honors Biology is intended as a ninth or tenth grade course for highly motivated students who have demonstrated an interest in science. The Biology EOC exam is required to receive credit for this class. The EOC will be administered in January for first semester students, and in June for second semester students.

Honors Biology is designed to give the student a more challenging and in-depth experience of the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* in Biology. In Honors Biology, students are expected to work independently on a variety of assignments and accept greater responsibility for their learning. Students enrolled in the honors version of the course will take the same EOC as students enrolled in the standard level version of the course. Students who choose an honors science course are expected to work more independently than students in standard level courses. Because students can be expected to cover the standard level material more independently there will be time for more enrichment topics as specified in the course descriptions for specific honors courses. Students who choose an honors science course will be expected to complete more independent, in-depth scientific investigations and to report on them using a more formal scientific laboratory report format. Students who choose an honors science course will be expected to read and present orally and in writing recent scientific findings.

Many of the materials and activities used for honors courses will also be appropriate for some students enrolled in standard level versions of the course. The difference may be in the level of independence expected of students and the amount of time activities may take.

**Course Materials**

Supplies include:

* **2 or 3 inch wide three-ring binder**
* **8 dividers/tabs**
* **Colored pencils for lab drawings and projects**
* **Notebook paper**
* Glue stick and scissors
* Package of computer paper
* Roll of Paper Towels
* Clorox wipes
* Classroom supply donation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Notebook**

Your notebook will be a crucial aspect of your coursework and grade. You will be required to keep your papers ALL YEAR! Your notebook will be graded once per grading period on the following criteria…

1. All papers are to be hole-punched and in the correct category.
2. You must have eight dividers correctly labeled as follows…
   1. Warm-ups
   2. Biochemistry
   3. Cells
   4. Genetics
   5. Biotechnology
   6. Evolution
   7. Ecology
   8. Classification

***NOTICE: The notebook will be collected at the end of the semester. I will evaluate the contents and the organization and use it in the final determination of your grade.***

**General Information**

Website: Students will be expected to print out information from my website. All test dates and homework information can be accessed through my site: https://rickharabin.weebly.com/

Attendance: Since we are on the block schedule, it is imperative you practice good attendance. If you are absent, please see me the morning you return to school to obtain your make up work. You may ask your classmates for any missed notes. Recovery for missed classes will be handled in accordance with the Ardrey Kell policy.

Grades: Grades will be based on tests, quizzes, homework, class work, and lab work. There will be a state mandated End of Course Test in all biology classes. You can prepare for this exam by accurately completing and reviewing assignments regularly. Test and quizzes (formal) are 70% and assignments (informal) are 30%.

Cheating: Possession of a cheat sheet on your person, on your desk or chair, in your calculator, talking during a test, providing a student with your completed work, etc. is considered cheating, and regardless of whether or not you use the information. Offenders will receive a referral for honor code violation, parents will be notified, and you will receive a zero on the assignment.

Homework: Homework will be assigned periodically. It is vital that you complete and regularly review your homework.

Tutoring: I am available for tutoring every school day at 6:55 am, and Tuesday-Friday after school until 3:30 pm.

All classroom expectations will be implemented according to the Ardrey Kell Handbook.

Consequences:

1. Warning

2. Student Conference

3. Time-Out (SMC) - Parent Contact

4. Teacher ASD – Parent Contact

5. Office Referral

Expectations:

1. Be prepared with notebook, pencil, pen and planner each day.
2. Be in your seat and completing the warm-up as class starts
3. Be sure that you have printed off any info from the webpage—if instructed.
4. Respect the teacher, fellow classmates and school property while following all aspects of the Ardrey Kell Handbook. This includes keeping your desk and lab area CLEAN!

Our overview of Biology will include notes, discussions, lab work, and classwork. I feel that learning is benefited when we are able to apply our knowledge to everyday occurrences and to the real world. I look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Sincerely,

Rick Harabin