

COURSE TITLE: Biology H

Level of Difficulty	Estimated Homework	Prerequisites
Very Difficult	60-90 minutes	District: B- or better in 8th Grade Honors Science or Petition Department Suggestion: B- or better in 8th Grade Honors Science or Petition

Course Description:

Honors Biology is a rigorous introductory life science course. This course prepares students to take IB Biology and it fulfills the life science requirement for high school graduation. Laboratory experience is emphasized with continued development of critical thinking skills and analysis of data collection. The course will include the following topics: science methods, biochemistry and enzymes, cell biology, photosynthesis/respiration, genetics, DNA and protein synthesis, biotechnology, and evolution. Students will explore these topics through discussions, laboratory investigations, teacher lecture and demonstrations, and in-class assignments. This course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards in Biology.

The pacing of this class is very fast in comparison to CP Biology. This course has two fewer units than CP Biology but each unit goes further in-depth. Within each 85 or 100 minute period, a new topic is covered every day resulting in a new unit every 1-2 weeks. Students are expected to be proactive in their learning and ask questions when help is needed. For example, homework keys are posted online. Students are expected to check their own work each night and it is their responsibility to ask for clarification as homework will not be reviewed in class the next day unless questions are specifically asked.

Students who successfully complete Honors Biology have the option of taking IB Science or any other CP Science elective.

Grading:

The grading system is based on weighted percentages. Each assignment will have a point value within the weighted category. Assessments and labs are weighted more heavily than homework. Individual teachers may make modifications on the weighted percentages. There will also be a cumulative end of course final exam.

Syllabus:

This course vertically articulates with IB Biology 1 and IB Biology 2. The IB Biology exam in May of the senior year will test on content from all three courses.

Supplemental Information:

This class is a prerequisite for students wishing to take IB Chemistry or IB Biology in their junior & senior year. Students must complete this class with a B- or better to advance to IB Chemistry or IB Biology 1 in the junior year.

Homework Estimate: This is a general guideline for planning and scheduling purposes. A student's ability level may affect actual preparation time needed.