

Honors Biology
Lincoln High School
2016-2017

Instructor: Mrs. Cahn
Contact: gcahn@sjusd.org

Room: 72
535-6300 ext. 64272

Course Description

Biology is the study of life. It is a rapidly changing field that encompasses a wide range of topics from the structures of life to the interactions between living organisms and their environments. Emphasis will be placed on the characteristics that all living organisms share, which include the following: a genetic blueprint, a cellular makeup, growth and development, response to stimuli, energy use, evolution, and homeostasis. Students will gain an in-depth body of knowledge that explores our current understanding of biological themes while also investigating current events, issues, and technology related to biology.

Text: *Biology, The Living Science* Miller/Levine, 2000, Prentice Hall

Materials and Resources

Students should have pen, pencil, and a three ring binder with lined paper every day. I also recommend, but do not require, colored pencils.

Course Activities

You will work on labs with classmates, complete lab questions and worksheets, do homework, work on projects, take quizzes and tests, and take notes on the material covered in class.

Grading

Category Weights:		Grading Scale	
Assignments	30%	A+: 98 - 100	C+: 76 - 79
Labs	30%	A: 94 - 97	C: 72 - 75
Quizzes & Tests	40%	A-: 90 - 93	C-: 68 - 71
		B+: 88 - 89	D+: 64 - 67
		B: 84 - 87	D: 59 - 63
		B-: 80 - 83	D-: 55 - 58
			F: 0 - 54

Late Work

Students are allowed one class day to make up work for each class day of an *excused absence*, plus one extra day. Tests, quizzes, and labs must be completed within a week of an absence. ***Students are responsible for meeting with the instructor to make arrangement to complete missing work.*** Assignments not turned in on the due date will suffer a point reduction of 10 % per class day, to a minimum of 50%. If the work is incomplete or poorly done than the grade may even be lower. Without an arrangement for turning in late work, no work is accepted after the test for a given unit.

Classroom Guidelines:

It is my expectation that students want a safe and welcoming environment where they are respected, and that they are willing to do their part to create and maintain this environment. When this is the case, the classroom becomes a fun and engaging place to learn. The following guidelines provide a framework for students to create this environment with my guidance.

RESPECT	<p>All members of the class will be respectful to each other, the room, and the materials. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respectful language • keeping tables, chairs, materials, and lab equipment in good condition and unmarked • disposing of food, gum, non-water drinks before entering classroom 	<p>If you are disrespectful:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbal warning 2. Teacher assigns consequence 3. Teacher assigns consequence and parent contact 4. Administrative Action
PREPARED	<p>All members of the class will be prepared to learn and ready with necessary materials. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bringing all materials to class ever day (binder, paper, pencils) • having assignments ready to turn in on the due date 	<p>If you are unprepared:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. assignments turned in late will have 10% deducted per day, to a minimum of 50% 2. after the end of a grading period, no credit may be earned for late work
ENGAGED	<p>From bell to bell, all members of the class will be ready to engage in learning. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when tardy bell rings, students and teacher are engaged on the first item of the agenda • students will actively participate throughout the class period • Abide by SJUSD Cell Phone Policy 	<p>If you are disrespectful:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbal warning 2. Teacher assigns consequence 3. Teacher assigns consequence and parent contact 4. Administrative Action

If an offense is unsafe, habitual/repetitive, hateful, or inexcusable the student will receive an automatic referral and the parents will be called (the student handbook lists several zero-tolerance violations).

Honors Biology
Mrs. Cahn

Student Name: _____

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and agree to adhere to all of the classroom policies. By signing, you are agreeing to have a fantastic year and to do your best in this class.

Student: I have read the information in the course description and agree to adhere to the classroom policies. I will try my hardest and put forth my best effort.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: I look forward to working with your student this year. Please sign to acknowledge that you have reviewed the classroom policies with your student and agree to support your student in putting forth his/her best effort.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Preferred Contact Information (email address or phone #): _____

Second Parent/Guardian (optional): _____

Signature: _____

Preferred Contact Information (email address or phone #): _____