

# HONORS BIOLOGY

## COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

### **Course Description:**

Biology is the study of all things pertaining to life. You will be introduced to a deeper understanding of the basic topics of Biology including but not limited to: **Biochemistry, Cytology, Cell Division, Molecular and Mendelian Genetics, Evolution, Human Systems, Ecology and Statistics**. You will be challenged to develop scientific thinking, reading, writing, and numeracy skills throughout the course year while being introduced to style of teaching and learning that may be a little different than what you are used to. If at any time you have any questions, concerns or just plain curiosities, please do not hesitate to ask. The only stupid question is the one not asked. You will be pushed to excel and held accountable for your actions (or lack thereof). Ultimately, the grades you earn are up to you. In order to be as successful as you wish to be, you must be ready to work harder than you worked last year, just as you will have to work harder in college in order to continue your expected success from North Salem High School. I am here to teach you and to help you earn the grades you desire. I look forward to getting to know you and providing you with a challenging but rewarding science experience.

### **Helpful Suggestions to Students:**

- Take accurate notes and review them and your vocabulary words/flashcards/quizlet every night.
- Complete all assignments on time.
- Become an active reader by asking yourself questions as you read.
- Ask us questions and GET HELP EARLY if you don't understand something.
- Utilize the videos and animations on Collea's Corner if you do not understand something.

### **Extra Help:**

Extra help is available on Tuesday and Wednesday in Room W-19 from 2:15 p.m. until 2:55 p.m.

### **Homework Policy:**

Success in this course is impossible without doing some kind of homework or review **EVERY** night. I will make every effort to post a detailed description of the homework on the **Off-Site Learning** section of *ColleasCorner.weebly.com*. Sometimes I will collect and grade homework or we may go over it in class. Late homework is unacceptable without notifying your teacher(s) in advance.

### **Examination Policy:**

“Celebrations of Learning” are designed to allow you to show me what you know. Every effort will be made to notify you of upcoming tests 5 days in advance on the class website.

## **Grading Policy:**

Exams will make up approximately **60%** of the quarter grade. **Homework, quizzes, Summary Sheets/Lab Reports** and **class participation** will count for the remaining **40%** of the quarter grade.

Full length lab reports may be weighed more heavily depending on the complexity of the experiment.

## **Lab Requirement:**

You are expected to have at least 1200 minutes of completed lab work and have passing grades on the corresponding Summary Sheets that accompany them to be admitted into the Regents Exam in June.

All Summary Sheets be kept on file by Mr. Collea as per New York State mandate. Labs missed due to a legal absence can be made up as soon as possible after school during my extra help session.

## **Attendance:**

You must be in class on time and be well rested. Regular attendance is essential for full participation in the learning process. You should plan your activities to have a minimum impact on classroom attendance. It is your responsibility to see the teacher (hopefully in advance) and make arrangements to make-up any missed work due to a legal absence.

## **Tardiness:**

One detention will be given for each time you are illegally tardy after three warnings. My definition of tardy is not being in your seat and ready to work before the bell rings.

## **Cell Phones:**

Cell phones are to be turned off and placed in the cell phone cubby located in the front of the room BEFORE the bell rings. Please read the research on the detrimental effects of smartphones on your class homepage.

## **Backpacks:**

Backpacks are not allowed in the science lab. All back packs must be securely stored in your locker.

## **Student Behavior:**

I will treat you like the honors student you are and know you will not let me down.

***“If you can be anything in the world, be KIND!”***