

**CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Honors Biology I Syllabus**  
**2020-2021**



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**Course Description**

Honors Biology 1 is a survey course in the Life Sciences designed to challenge the advanced student. It requires hands-on lab investigations, teamwork and a curiosity for the way living things work. On a daily basis we will engage in the thought processes and actions of science. There will be an emphasis on not only *doing* science, but also the application of biological knowledge and critical thinking in relation to environmental and social concerns. The rigor of this course will require a high level of commitment and effort from the honors student. It is more in-depth and faster paced than the regular biology course, with a greater emphasis on critical thinking and independent learning. Successful completion of this class will better prepare students for other advanced level courses. Over the course of the year we will study the nature of science, biochemistry, cells, genetics, evolution, the classification and diversity of life, and ecology.

**In-Class Expectations**

While attending class in-person at CHS, expectations align with the Capital Code of **Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be a Graduate**. We will use these overarching tenets to guide our classroom community with the primary goal of creating and maintaining a safe positive environment in which EVERYONE can learn. Below are specific examples of how these expectations are practiced within the science classroom.

<b>Be Responsible</b>	<b>Be Respectful</b>	<b>Be a Graduate</b>
Be on time and prepared for class.	Use appropriate language.	Be an active participant.
Follow all safety and emergency procedures.	Treat others with respect at all times.	Meet or exceed graduation requirements.
Use your class time productively.	Be kind. Unkind words and actions will not be tolerated.	Keep up with the assignments, prepare for tests and quizzes, and talk to me if you need help.
Take responsibility for your actions.	Take care of school property, including books and equipment.	

**Remote/Online Expectations**

While attending class remotely, expectations align with the Capital High School Learning Expectations (attached) of **Be Engaged, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be a Graduate and Take Care of Yourself**. Below are specific examples of how these expectations are practiced in this class.

<b>Be Engaged</b>	<b>Be Responsible</b>	<b>Be Respectful</b>	<b>Be a Graduate</b>
Participate in all Teams chats/discussions.	Turn in assignments on time. (See Late Work Policy)	Turn in assignments oriented vertically – not sideways.	Engage in all assignments whether they are graded or not – the goal should be to learn!
If I send you a chat please respond every time.	If you will be absent make arrangements ahead of time.	Do your own work – copying another students work is disrespectful to that student and to me as a teacher.	Show up on time for your in-person classes (DLI – for your 2 days of live remote classes)
Be helpful to your classmates without giving them your work.	Be honest.	Copying another students work will result in you both earning zeros. Think about the impact of your	Work on your work throughout the week.
	Check PowerSchool at least once/week.		

	<p>Ask for what you need.</p> <p>Do your own work – don't cheat.</p> <p>Set up a work space free from distractions.</p> <p>Check the schedule at the start of the week and make a plan.</p>	<p>classmate's grades if they earn a zero because you were not responsible enough to do your own work.</p> <p>Respect my time as a teacher, communications on your remote days will not be instant. I have 24 hours to reply.</p> <p>Use appropriate language and manners.</p> <p>Respect personal space, property, and school grounds.</p> <p>Use your school email account.</p>	<p>Make goals when it comes to work completion and do your best to achieve those goals.</p>
<p><b>Take Care of Yourself</b> - If you are struggling reach out. I am here for more than academic support. If you need to talk to me because you are over-stressed, anxious, depressed, etc. please reach out. I will do my best to help you and to connect you with people who can help you work through your difficult times.</p>			

### Classroom Policies

- **COVID-19 Precautions:** Because we are all in this community together, students must take precautions. Masks that cover the nose and mouth will be required at all times. Maintain six feet of social distance from others whenever possible. Wash hands with soap and water often. Students should do their part in cleaning up and sanitize their lab space and supplies.
- **Cell phones/ipods/tablets/headphones:** *Absolutely* no use of any of these during instructional time unless *explicitly* stated by the instructor. Inappropriate electronic use is a distraction to the student and the learning environment. Cell phones need to be silenced/turned off and stored out of site. If I see it, we will follow the procedures outlined in the student handbook. I have zero tolerance for cell phones during tests or quizzes. If a cell phone is used during those times, the student will receive a zero on the test or quiz, no exceptions.
- **Food/Drink:** No food will be eaten during class time. Only water and nutritional drinks are allowed in the classroom.
- **Labs:** Follow all safety rules. I have zero tolerance for inappropriate behavior in the lab or not following lab instructions. The first time a student will get a warning. The second time, they will get a zero on the lab.

### Materials

1. A composition notebook for notes, activities, and labs. I will be checking these occasionally for a grade.
2. A 1 inch three-ring binder or folder for storing handouts and assignments.
3. A pencil for writing. Colored pencils will be used often. You may want to bring your own.
4. **Textbook:** Starr, Taggart, Evers, and Starr *Biology: The Unity and Diversity of Life*, 2010. Please keep this book at home. DO NOT BRING IT TO CLASS.

### Late Work and Make-Up Work

- I expect assignments to be turned in complete and on time. Late work will be accepted for 50% credit **up to the end of the unit of study**. Any missing assignments turned in after a student has taken a unit test will remain a zero.
- Make-up work:
  - Follow the CHS handbook rules on make-up work for school activities. As per the handbook you have the number of days you are absent plus one day to turn in assignments.
  - It is the student's responsibility to schedule a time to make-up missed quizzes, labs, test, etc.

### Quarter Homework Ticket Procedures

Each student will be issued three “homework tickets” at the beginning of each quarter. They are for students to hold on to, and to use for excusing late homework – not applicable to tests, quizzes, and large projects. Tickets saved until the end of the quarter may be turned in for extra credit. Note that the assignment must be completed with the ticket attached to the assignment in order to receive the full credit earned by the student for the assignment. Homework tickets will only be accepted on assignments **up to one week following the due date or the end of the unit of study (which ever comes first)**.

### Grades

- Quarter Biology grades are based on the following weighted percentages:
  - 20% Classwork/Homework
  - 35% Labs/Quizzes/Projects
  - 45% Tests
- Semester Grade = 42.5% Quarter 1 + 42.5% Quarter 2 + 15% Semester Test.**
- Grades are assigned using the school grading. It is as follows:

91 – 100	= A	78 – 79.99	= C+	60 – 61.99	= D-
90 – 91.99	= A-	72 – 77.99	= C	60 and below	= F
88 – 89.99	= B+	70 – 71.99	= C-		
82 – 87.99	= B	68 – 69.99	= D+		
80 – 81.99	= B-	62 – 67.99	= D		
- Grades can be checked online any time using Power School. Students should check their grades often!
- It is the student’s responsibility to check for any missing assignment or make-up work they may have missed.

### Remote and Online Learning

All remote and online learning will happen via Microsoft Teams. The Microsoft Teams platform will contain the weekly class schedule, daily class activities and assignments, needed resources, and important announcements.

### Digital Learning Initiative (DLI) Students

DLI students should plan to attend class via Microsoft Teams during the class period on the A or B day that you would normally be scheduled to attend class. Honors Biology 1 is a lab-based class so DLI students will be required to complete labs. While a few labs may be completed at home, most will need to be done virtually.

### Signatures

Please sign and date below indicating that you and your parent/guardian have read and understand these class policies and expectations.

_____ Student name (print)	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent/Guardian name (print)	_____ Signature	_____ Date