

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.

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.

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

While attending class remotely, see the attached Capital High School Learning Expectations document for specific expectations. During a blended or remote learning environment, students must act with academic integrity and submit work that represents their authentic learning.

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 6 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.
- **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 notebook: for notes, activities, and labs.
2. A three-ring binder or folder: for storing handouts and assignments.

3. A pencil: 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.
5. Calculator: OPTIONAL - I have a class set, but it is a great idea to have your own! A simple four function calculator is all you need!

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.
 - It is your responsibility to schedule a time to make-up missed quizzes, labs, test, etc.
 - I am available before school, after school, and most days during 1st or 4th periods for make-up work or help. Please see me and schedule a time. This includes in class and remote work.

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 total points. The breakdown of points for each quarter will be about the following 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 for the class will contain information on daily class activities and assignments, needed resources, and include important announcements. The weekly calendar and a video for the week will be posted on Monday each week. They should have assignments to work on through Teams every day.

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 complete the Google form in Task 1 on Teams after reviewing this document.