2018-2019

**Mr. Tuss**

**dtuss@helenaschools.org**

 **324-2566**

**Course Description:**

Welcome to Biology! This year we will be exploring biology through six major units including: Biochemistry, Cell Structure & Function, Genetics, Evolution, Diversity of Life, and Ecology. In these areas of study, you will be posing scientific questions, developing models, designing experiments, analyzing/interpreting data, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, and communicating information with the understanding that science is more than a body of knowledge – it is a way of thinking!

*As an honors science class you can expect to learn the same content as would be expected in regular biology 1, but in more depth and at a faster pace. You will be expected to spend more time outside of class on assignments and reading. This will be a rigorous class that is designed to prepare you for your future educational endeavors. To be successful you need to come to class with an open mind and a willingness to be an active participant in discussion and all classroom activities. I hold my honors students to a high standard and I am confident that you are up to the task!*

**Expectations**

Expectations align with the Capital Code of **Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be a Graduate.** We will use this as a guide our class community with the primary goal of creating and maintaining a safe, positive, and respectful environment in which EVERYONE can learn.

**Materials**

The following items are not suggestions, they are essential materials that you will need to be successful in this class. Should you have any problems obtaining any of these required materials please speak with me (Mr. Tuss) and I can help you find a solution.

1. 3-ringed binder to organize course materials and handouts.
2. Spiral notebook or loose-leaf paper for notes and labs.
3. **College ruled** composition notebook.
4. Pen and Pencil for writing. (Highlighters are highly recommended, but not required).

**Attendance:**

It is extremely difficult to learn if you are not present, and therefore I push attendance and punctuality.

Please be on time for class every day. Our time is limited and valuable, and we will be starting promptly at the bell each period.

**Grading:**

Grading will be based on total points from quizzes, tests, daily classwork, homework, labs and projects.

 **SEMESTER GRADE**
 Quarter 1: 40%
 Quarter 2: 40%
 Final Exam 20%

**Grading Scale**: 90-100%=A 80-89%=B 70-79%=C 60-69%=D Below 60%=F

**Class Rules and Expectations**:

1. Learning Environment:
* Respect the learning environment and people within it.
* Hats & over-revealing apparel are not acceptable. Please remove your hat when you enter the classroom.
* Be in your seat when the bell rings.
* Productive participation in class discussions.
* Contribute to group work. Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated on any assignment.
1. Cell phones/iPods/headphones**:**

Cell phones and electronic devices need to be put away in your backpack, not your pocket when you enter the room. If you do not bring a backpack to class, you may place your phone at the designated charging station when you enter the classroom.

Absolutely no use of any of these during instructional time unless instructed otherwise by myself or co-teacher. If it becomes an issue we will follow the procedures outlined in the student handbook.

1. Food/Drink:Food is not to be eaten during class time, only water and nutritional drinks are allowed in a clear spill-proof bottle.
2. Assignments, Late Work and Make-Up Work
* Many assignments, including labs and projects, can be completed during class time. However, there will be many occasions where reading and assignments need to be completed outside of class time.
* Late assignments will be accepted 1 day from the assignment due date with a 5% score deduction. Any assignments turned in after this time will receive no greater that 50% for completed work. Please note, if you are on task and demonstrate a desire to work hard in my class I can be flexible with assignments on a case by case basis, but it is up to YOU to speak up and communicate with me. Be your own advocate!
* Make-up work:
1. Follow the CHS handbook rules on make-up work for school activities.
2. If you miss a test or quiz, you must arrange a time with me to take it within a reasonable timeline.
3. Science lab make-up is offered on a case-by-case basis. Arrangements must be made personally with me **within 3 days** to complete any missed labs.

**Extra Credit:**

I may offer other extra credit throughout the semester. These are not guaranteed opportunities however, and a student must be caught up on missing assignments before extra credit may be awarded. *NOTE: Students may not pass the semester due to extra credit. A minimum 60% must be earned before extra credit is applied.*

**Classroom Hours:**

I am typically in my classroom by 6:30am (Mon-Fri), My prep. time is 3rd period and I can be available at lunch if given notice in advance. Please feel free to call or email me if you need anything!

**Remember: As a student, you are here to learn; you are not here to fail!**

I am here to help you succeed, and I want us to have the best year possible. I will work hard to ensure that we have a great year, and I hope you are committed to doing the same! *- Mr. Tuss*

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read the above safety contract and understand that I am accountable for my actions and helping to maintain a safe learning environment for myself and my peers.

Student Signature: Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_