

Class Guidelines



Honors Biology <http://wappingersschools.org/rck/staff/teacherhp/johnson/index.html>
September 2009

Welcome to Honors Biology.

This year your science course will survey some of the major subdivisions of Biology. The material presented follows the New York State syllabus. It is tested in June by the Living Environment regents. The major areas of study include: Diversity of Life; Human Physiology; Ecology; Environmental Science; Reproduction and Development; and Genetics.

Textbook: *Essential Biology with Physiology* by Campbell, Reece, Simon

A textbook will be assigned to you within the next few days. If it is damaged during the year you will have to pay a fine. If it is lost you will have to pay to replace the book. Your textbook must be covered throughout the year.

Materials: To be prepared for class each day you will need to have a notebook and folder used exclusively for Biology class, and a pen or pencil. On test days you will need a pencil.

Homework: Written assignments will be given as necessary, usually 2 or 3 times a week, to help you prepare for class, reinforce class work, and to review. All assignments are due on the date listed. Late homework will be accepted but will lose its' grade value. In addition to weekly homework, group cooperative learning projects will be scheduled throughout the year.

Blog: A BioBlog will be kept this year. <http://biologyislifebydefinition.blogspot.com/>
One assignmet is required weekly.

Tests, Lab Reports, Quizzes: Tests will be short answer, multiple choice matching, and essay. They are worth 100 points each. Lab reports are checked for correctness, accuracy and completeness of your work. This often includes activity checks during the actual lab. NY State requires the completion of 1200 minutes of lab to obtain credit for this course. Each lab and activity is worth a different number of points. Quizzes are worth various amounts of points and will be given from time to time.

Long Term Project: A required long term project must be "in place" by the beginning of Marking Period 3. The project is required as a member of my honors biology class. This requirement can be satisfied through ongoing participation in any number of biology related activities (WCS Science Fair, Bio Tutoring, National Competitions, Lab Assistant Presentations, or any pre-approved activity.)

Grades: Quarterly grades are based on tests, quizzes, labs, homework, and class work. They are calculated using the following formula:

$$[\text{total points earned} / \text{total points possible}] \times 100$$

Behavior and Expectations

- 1. Be on time.** When the late bell rings you should be in your seat and prepared.
- 2. Be polite.** I can't be in more than one place at a time, nor can I answer two or more questions at once. Please wait your turn.
- 3. Be courteous.** When you are talking to me, I will listen to you. I expect the same courtesy when I am talking to you, both individually and as a class.
- 4. Be safe.** For the safety of all...follow all safety rules.

Extra Help: Feel free to ask my help at any time...that's why I'm here. If you are having trouble, see me. I will arrange for assistance. I will usually be available for extra help during my preparation period. Please inform me in advance so that I can write a hall pass for that purpose. I also stay after school and the days I'll be staying will be included in the monthly calendar, but please tell me that day in class so that I can confirm.

Telephone: I can be contacted for telephone conferences by calling the RCK science department at 298.5100. If I am not available I will return your call as soon as possible.

Internet: If you prefer, I can contact you through email, just include your complete address below. I will compile a group list for each class to notify you of important dates, projects, tests etc. You can e-mail me at henry.johnson@wappingersschools.org or you can access my website at

<http://wappingersschools.org/rck/staff/teacherhp/johnson/index.html>

I look forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

Henry Johnson

student signature

parent or guardian signature

parent or guardian email address