

BIOLOGY HONORS

A laboratory study of molecular biology, plant and animal physiology, microbiology, and genetics which stresses the importance of laboratory skills as a fundamental basis of inquiry and investigation. Concepts are developed through a series of experimental problems which give the student an opportunity to learn through research, using the techniques employed by biologists. Because a college level textbook is used for this course, reading comprehension, note taking and observational skills are essential.

Prerequisites:

- Teacher Recommendation
- 8th grade Science final course grade (>90)



MUST-HAVE SKILLS FOR A SMOOTH FRESHMAN TRANSITION:

1. Participation and Asking Questions

- Engaging in class discussions and seeking clarification when needed will improve understanding. It is expected that students will utilize Unit Lunch to receive extra help.

2. Time Management

- Honors-level coursework moves quickly, so keeping up with assignments and preparing ahead for tests is crucial.

3. Intrinsic Motivation for Independent Work

- Completing coursework, including staying consistent with homework and reviewing material, regularly is necessary.

4. Basic Graphing Skills

- Lab work includes the ability to demonstrate data and information in the form of graphs.

5. Basic Algebra Skills

- Honors Biology relies on mathematical skills introduced in Algebra; therefore, a prior knowledge and understanding of basic Algebraic skills is essential.

6. High-Level of Interest

- A strong enthusiasm for subject area and a genuine curiosity about science. This includes a desire to learn more through exploration.

This class fosters more independent work in a more active atmosphere in which students will engage in more labs and activities that foster creative thinking.

This course prepares students for other Honors and AP courses as students are "learning to learn." This course can also track directly into AP Biology as a sophomore, thus opening your schedule for further Honors and AP sciences, and science electives, and it allows for earlier admission into Science National Honor Society as a sophomore (typically only open to Juniors and Seniors).