

Welcome to Honors Biology!

Mr. Hertzog

Arlington High School
(845) 486-4860 (Leave a message)
shertzog@acsdny.org

Welcome to this unique and challenging course which is designed to help you learn more about life science and help prepare you to take the optional *SAT subject exam in Biology, the Honors Biology final exam, and the New York State Living Environment Regents Exam*. All of these tests are in June, and you will be given more information about the specifics of each as time goes on.

Besides preparing you for the exams mentioned in the above paragraph, this course will provide you with the skills and knowledge critical to understanding life. The course is going to get *very difficult* at times and you will have to learn ideas and concepts that are more abstract and complex than anything you have learned so far.

Believe in yourself, keep trying, ask for help, and please don't complain about how much work you have to do or how difficult this is. You volunteered for it.

Course expectations:

Each day you are expected to arrive to class on time, with *class materials* (completed assignments, a three ring binder with blank paper, handouts, and class notes organized in chronological order, something to write with, and a calculator may be needed once in a while).

Other items that you may want to have at home that may help, but are not required include colored pencils, a small ruler, a glue stick or tape, a personal 3 hole puncher (in case the copier does not punch holes in your paper) and graph paper. I will try to provide these items when needed, but you will be able to work more efficiently if you are not dependent on shared materials. You may also need these if you have to finish an activity on your own.

You are expected to be in your assigned seat with your notebook out at the bell

Use electronics only when appropriate.

Show respect, consideration, and support for one another.

Follow directions and act safely and appropriately at all times.

You will be expected to spend time each day:

- 1- *reading the textbook,*
- 2- *re-reading and reviewing class materials, and*
- 3- *viewing and using online resources* from the class webpage.

Coursework:

Much of the work required involves reading, outlining, summarizing, and reorganizing the information in the book to try to learn as much of the content in each chapter as possible. The rule for each quiz is **“if it’s in the book, it can be on the quiz”**.

There are often occasions where students will be working in pairs or groups to complete tasks together, and in these cases similar answers are acceptable. You are expected to do your own work at all times, or be a positive contributor to group work. Copying and cheating from others is disgraceful and dishonorable and will not help you **learn** (which is more important than blindly completing a task).

Labs are a very important part of this course. In order to be admitted to the Living Environment Regents exam, you will need to complete **1200 minutes** of satisfactory lab work. 1200 minutes in about 30 lab periods. That’s nothing! In a year we have 90 lab periods, not to mention the labs that also take time during our class periods. If you are coming up short it will not be a surprise.

Attendance Policy:

This is a *very fast paced* course, and consistent attendance is important for your success.

- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up any missed work. Follow the homework calendar.
- Make sure that you have the names and contact information of a few students in this class (not from a different class period as they may have a different assignment) so they can tell you what you missed in case you are absent.
- If you are absent the day an assignment is due, show it to me or hand it in the day you return to class.
- Missed labs must be made up within two weeks of returning to school (I stay after school every Tuesday to help you make these up).
- Missed tests will be made up in class a day or two after your return to school so everyone does not have to wait too long to get their tests back.
- Any work or tests missed due to unexcused absences get no credit.

What are we going to learn about?

We will be following the textbook to learn the following units of study:

- 1.) The scientific method, basic life functions, and the chemistry of life
- 2.) Ecology
- 3.) Cells and cellular processes
- 4.) Plants
- 5.) Human Body Systems
- 6.) Reproduction and Genetics
- 7.) Evolution

Grading Policy

Each assignment (homework, classwork, and lab) counts for 4-10 points. Each test or quiz adds one point per question (usually 20-40). The points are added up and divided by the total points available to determine your average. Check the "Parent Portal" to keep track of grades.

Your *overall final grade for the class* will be calculated as follows:

Final Average=

1st quarter= 20%, 2nd quarter= 20%, 3rd quarter= 20%, 4th quarter= 20%, Final Exam = 20%

(the final exam grade is 25% honors final exam and 75% Living Environment Regents exam)

MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4 LE Honors Final

--	--	--	--	--	--

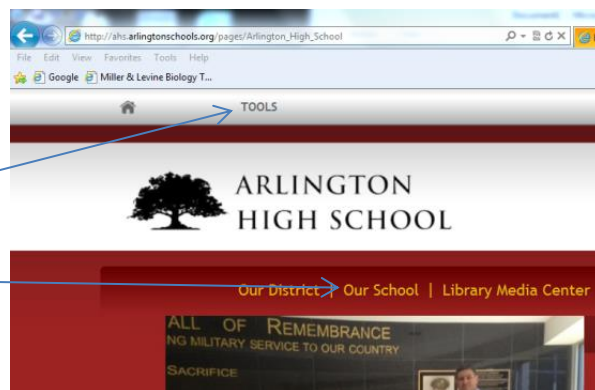
Biology Extra Help: Tuesdays in 2410

With MrDBioCFC, Crashcourse, Quizlet, sciencemusicvideos.com, the Amoeba sisters, or Bozemanscience: Anytime, anywhere!

Honors Biology Class Webpage Information:

To get to class webpage:

- From AHS webpage- click on "tools"
- Or "Our School"
- Then "Staff directory"
- Scroll down to find my name
- Click on my name, then click on "full profile" in the window that pops open.
- Our class is listed in the box below my non-picture in the "classes section"



Once you are there you can...

- Find the HW calendar, class handouts and notes pages (with active links to instructional videos), and more!
- Get access to an electronic copy of the textbook (which can be downloaded, saved, and accessed without an internet connection!)

About the SAT Subject exam

The SAT subject exam in Biology is a one hour, all multiple choice test from The College Board given on a Saturday morning in early June (usually here at AHS). Taking this test is optional and **your score does not affect your grade in this course**. Why take it then? Some colleges ask for SAT subject exam scores when applying. You may be applying to one of these colleges in the future and your hard work this year should be reflected in a good score. You do not need to decide any time soon to take the test or not, but you should work as hard as you can in class to make your chances for success in the class and on the test that much better. I would recommend following the following timeline if you think you might be interested in taking the SAT subject test...

September- October...

See how you are doing in class. If you are scoring in the 90's on all tests and quizzes, the material does not seem to be very challenging, and if you feel confident and secure in what you are learning, take the next step.

November- December...

Buy any review book (or get one from someone who took the test last year). A good review book will have content information on all of the topics on the test, and several practice tests (which you won't do until the Spring). Some even have a quick "self evaluation" that can let you know how close to being ready you might be. You should be able to pick up a good review book for around \$20. There are some helpful free preparation materials at collegeboard.com (follow the links to the **subject exams**). During this time look over the chapters that review topics that we have covered in class so far (Biochemistry, Cells, Respiration and Photosynthesis).

January- February

Continue working from the review book as we complete topics in class. Based on your performance on the review questions, adjust (more or less) how much time you spend studying the materials in the review book, in our class textbook, and even on the web.

March-April

You may start taking the practice tests. It's time to start thinking about registering for the exam. Even though the registration deadline is not until May if you want to make sure that you take your test at AHS, and not at Ketcham HS or perhaps farther away, register as early as possible. You can register online at collegboard.com and the fee is usually around \$30.

May-June

Crunch Time! Continue taking practice tests, reading-up on test topics, and giving up much of your "free time" .