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|  | **Honors Biology**  **Kristine Clements**  **2019-2020**  [kclements@wcpss.net](mailto:martineza@fultonschools.org)  <http://clementskscience.weebly.com> |

**Course description:**

Welcome to Honors Biology! Biology is a required course for graduation from NC High Schools. This course focuses on understanding the scientific principles underlying the living world. Topics that we will explore include biochemistry, cells, DNA, genetics and heredity, biotechnology, evolution, classification and ecology. Laboratory work is a major component of the course.

**Class policies/ expectations**

Students are expected to adhere to the rules set by the Middle Creek High School Student Handbook. Generally, we expect students to respect teachers, classmates, and the classroom environment and equipment.

1. Please be on time to class. You must be in the classroom, in your seat, and prepared to work when the bell rings.
2. Please reserve bathroom breaks for between classes unless it is an emergency.
3. Please follow directions and ask for help if you don’t understand.
4. Please do your own work and be responsible for your own learning.
5. Please throw away all trash in the trash can and tidy up your workspace before leaving.
6. Please refrain from eating in the science classroom. Drinks must have a lid.
7. Cell phones and ear buds must be put away and out of sight unless permission has been given.

**Absence and makeup policy:**

Students will have the same number of school days that they missed to make up missed work.

You are responsible for completing all missed work. This includes obtaining the notes, class work and homework. Check with the CANVAS site ON THE DAY OF YOUR ABSENCE and a classmate when you return for notes given in class.

In unexpected circumstances (long-term absence, family emergency, etc.), contact the teacher when able. The schedule for completing makeup work may differ from the policy above.

**Late work:**

* Days of excused absences = days to make up assignment, after that time the works is late.
* **Classwork** turned in late earns a deduction of 10% per day. Work not turned by the benchmark exam will be entered as a zero.
* **Homework** assignments turned in late but completed and accurate will receive up to 60%, and assignments not turned in by the benchmark exam will be entered as a 40%
* Tests and quizzes must be made up two weeks from original test date or they are subject to a late penalty.

**Grading scale**:

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| **Category** | **Overall category weight** |
| **Major Assessments**  (tests, topic quizzes) | 50% |
| **Intermediate Assessments**  (weekly vocab quizzes, projects, labs) | 40% |
| **Minor Assessments**  (including but not limited to homework, classwork, labs, group activities, etc.) | 10% |
| **EOC** (End of course exam) | 20% |

**Final Grade:** quarter 1: 40% + quarter 2: 40% +final exam 20%

**Honor code**:

Students are expected to review the honor code provided by Wake County Schools. Plagiarism and / or cheating on assignments will result in consequences according to Wake County Policy. Some examples of this type of behavior include:

* Looking at someone else’s quiz / test (or allowing others to view your own quiz / test)
* Copying someone’s work (or making your work available for copying)

**Recovery policy**:

1. Students who wish to retake a test may do so within two weeks of the original test per the following policy:
   1. All assignments for the unit have been turned in.
   2. A remediation session and tutorial assignment has been completed.
2. The retest score will be averaged with the original test score and will replace the score if the test score improved.

**Biology help sessions**:

I will be available for extra help with biology on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30-3:30. The other biology teachers also have extra help sessions and you may go to any teacher for help. All sessions will be posted in the classroom and on the class website.

**Power School:**

Grades are updated in real-time as teachers enter assignments and scores into the Power School system. With this electronic access and paper progress reports given to students to take home, we ask that parents and students please utilize this system for checking course grades.

**Class website/resources:**

We will be using CANVAS as our electronic class site this year. You can find class resources there. In addition, Mrs. Clements has a website, <http://clementskscience.weebly.com>. Please look there for general information about the class as well as a class calendar and basic resources.

**Contact:**

Contact Mrs. Clements at [kclements@wcpss.net](mailto:kclements@wcpss.net). I will respond to you within 24 hrs.