

HONORS BIOLOGY

2020-2021
Room 222
Mr. Sucher

Educational Philosophy

I believe a learning atmosphere based upon mutual respect among students and the teacher will create the most effective classroom. I genuinely believe each student can learn and be successful in my classroom and pledge to employ all means at my disposal to that cause. HOWEVER, I WILL NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LEARNING. You alone will have ultimate responsibility for your learning in this course. Along the way you will utilize available resources such as your textbook, teacher, and/or peers, but your own ultimate success or failure in the course will be dependent upon your own initiative and hard work.

Classroom Policies

An effective learning environment requires explicit behavioral expectations that maintain order while still allowing for individual freedoms. To this end, we have established three ideals that will govern our classroom. Adhering to these rules will simply rely upon each student's maturity, responsibility, and fairness toward others.

1. **Mutual Respect** -- We want to establish an atmosphere of mutual respect toward peers and the teacher. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. This includes:

- a. Respect others property (teacher's, student's, or school's)
- b. Respect others opinions
 - When other students are sharing their ideas, our job is to listen and develop a critical opinion in favor of or against their opinion or idea. Our job is not to talk at the same time.
 - When we I am speaking your job is the same. I would encourage you to share your critical opinion or understanding with us. Raising your hand will indicate to us that you have developed a critical opinion or have a misunderstanding.

2. **Be on time.**

-When the bell rings every student is expected to be present in the classroom. Promptness is a habit that is necessary in this and all future phases of life. Being on time indicates that you are committed to your learning and that you respect the importance of your colleagues' and teacher's time and ideas.

3. **Be prepared**--This includes:

- a. Learning materials
 - At every class meeting students should bring appropriate learning materials—pen, pencil, binder, three-hole punched loose-leaf paper, charged chromebook.
 - Phones are only permitted in the first four minutes of class if used as a digital organizer.
- b. Assignments
 - Assignments are expected to be turned in when they are due. If they are not present the time they are due, they are considered late.
- c. No food or drink, except water, in the classroom during class time.

Enforcement of Policies

All interventions are aimed at modifying unacceptable behaviors and will be quick to punish and quick to forgive. Once again, our ultimate goal in this course is for you to learn Science. Excessive time spent addressing unacceptable behaviors will take away from this goal. The interventions that follow describe typical courses of action if a rule is broken.

Absences and/or tardies will be dealt with according to school policy.

Disrespect directed toward peers or teacher will be addressed according to severity of the infraction and number of occurrences. Typical interventions include: verbal warning, conference with teacher, conference with parent, and referral to an administrator. These interventions will be administered relative to the severity of the infraction.

Not being prepared for class meetings

Late homework assignments

-Homework assignments will be checked or collected on a semi-regular basis. Late work will be accepted when turned in within a time frame that still supports learning objectives.

Grading Policy

Adherence to the rules provided will allow us to focus on our overall goal in the classroom: student achievement. Although other goals such as social skills and personal growth will be targeted throughout the course, ultimately, we want you to learn science. To this end, it is helpful for you to understand how assessment of your achievement in this course will be evaluated.

Research and common sense have consistently shown that students learn in a variety of ways. As an extension of this, learning should be evaluated in a variety of ways. For this reason, the final grade will be a compilation of different methods of assessment. A breakdown of these components and their weights is provided below.

Exams/Quizzes	60%
Labs	30%
Homework	10%

ASSESSMENT OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENT IN THIS COURSE IS NOT A COMPETITION BETWEEN/AMONG YOUR PEERS AND/OR THE TEACHER. Our challenge is to construct the most effective methods to find out how much science you know. Please do not hesitate to set up a conference where we can discuss alternative forms of assessment.

Parents:

Thank you for taking the time to read through the guidelines we established to promote an effective learning atmosphere. If you have any questions at this time or in the future concerning classroom policies, expectations in the classroom, your child's achievement, or any others that may arise, please feel free to contact me. Once again, thank you for your time, I am looking forward to working with your child during the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Craig Sucher

signature of parent(s)

date

name of student