

Honors Biology

Fall 2025

Teacher: Mr. Allison

Semester: Fall 2025

Course Description

Honors Biology is an advanced, fast-paced course designed for students who are ready to explore the science of life in depth. Students will study biological concepts with a strong emphasis on scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and laboratory skills. The course will cover molecular to ecological levels of biology, integrating real-world applications and current scientific research.

Major Topics Covered:

- Scientific Method & Experimental Design
- Biochemistry of Life (macromolecules, enzymes, water properties)
- Cell Structure & Function
- Energy in Living Systems (photosynthesis, cellular respiration)
- Cell Division (mitosis, meiosis)
- Genetics (Mendelian & non-Mendelian patterns, DNA, RNA, protein synthesis)
- Evolution & Natural Selection
- Classification & Diversity of Life
- Ecology & Ecosystem Interactions
- Human Impact on the Environment

Grading Scale (10-Point Scale)

- **A:** 90–100
- **B:** 80–89
- **C:** 70–79
- **D:** 60–69
- **F:** Below 60

Grade Categories

- **Classwork:** Daily assignments, participation, and discussion activities
- **Projects:** Individual and group research or creative projects
- **Labs:** Hands-on laboratory work, reports, and analysis
- **Exams:** Unit tests assessing major concepts and skills

- **Check-ins:** State Section Exams
- **Final Exam:** Worth 25% of the course grade
 - If at any point your grade falls below an 80% you will be required to attend AEO until grade improves.

Assessments & Check-ins

- Formal exams will occur at the end of each chapter.
- **Check-ins** will be short, targeted assessments to review progress and understanding. Dates are TBD, but students will receive prior notice.

Class Expectations

- **Tardies & Absences:** Will be addressed according to school board policy. Students are responsible for making up missed work.
- **Preparedness:** Bring all required materials daily (notebook, writing utensil, iPad, etc.).
- **Respect:** Show respect for classmates, the teacher, and the learning environment.
- **Participation:** Engage fully in class discussions, labs, and activities.

Cell Phone Policy

In accordance with **North Carolina law** and school policy, cell phones are **not to be accessed during instructional time**. All devices must remain off or silenced and stored away unless use is authorized by the teacher for instructional purposes.

Materials Needed

- Notebook or binder with divider (only if you want to take physical notes on paper)
- Pens/pencils (only if you want to take physical notes on paper)
- iPad (charged daily)

Contact Information

- **Email:** rallison@haywood.k12.nc.us
- **Planning Period:** 2:20-3:30 M,T,Th,F
- **AEO:** Tuesday 12:10-12:40, Thursday and Friday 11:30-12:50