Dear Honors Biology 2 Students & Parents,

I look forward to the adventures we will have learning this year in Honors Biology II! I have heard that you are excellent students and my expectations are high. My goal for you as a student in my class is for you to sharpen your critical thinking skills, your writing skills and for you to grow as a student. This only work if we work together on this goal. To grow as a student I hope to challenge you with a rigorous curriculum and prepare you for upper level science high school courses and college level work in science. You should expect to have homework and for tests to be challenging. Time should be set aside for daily study to be successful. I am excited you have chosen to take on this challenge.

As you have learned, Biology is the study of life and how it works. It is an exciting and inspiring field that you will be exploring this year. It is also a growing field and college students with Biology/Science degrees are in high demand. We will be studying the diversity of life, the vital role of water in our environment, and how living things, including you, work. To learn this material, there will be hands-on activities, projects, dissections and other labwork.

One focus of this course is water quality and the vital role of freshwater to living organisms. We will be collecting and reporting it to ORSANCO (Ohio River Water Sanitation Commission). This will involve field work at the Little Miami River.

We will also be studying the 6 kingdoms and many of the phyla in these kingdoms (especially the animal kingdom). We will focus on phylogenic relationships, animal adaptations, the role various organisms play in the environment, and human impact on the environment.

In our study of the phyla, we will be doing a great deal of dissecting and you will be tested over the material covered during the dissections and labs. The testing of the phyla and organisms is in the form of traditional tests and lab practicals. Lab practicals focus on allowing you to demonstrate what you learned during dissection and labs. Some of the organisms we will be dissecting/studying include all or some of the following: a fetal pig, a lubber grasshopper, a crayfish, a spider, a squid, a fish, an earthworm, a parasitic ascaris worm, a tapeworm, an earthworm, a clam, and a starfish. In addition to numerous dissections, you will have the opportunity to complete several projects related to our studies. Among some of the larger projects may include a leaf collection, a biome project, an environmental awareness project, and/or an insect collection.

Biology is known for its complicated and numerous vocabulary and terms. In order to aide you in learning these terms you will be studying and quizzed over latin/greek root words (prefixes/suffixes). By breaking larger words down into their root words will allow you to learn some of the complex terms easily.

I look forward to meeting you this coming school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Hardin
POISON IVY IDENTIFICATION

We will be doing some work outside so it is helpful to be able to identify poison ivy. POISON IVY is commonly confused with other plants. Here are the key differences to look for to distinguish poison ivy from its lookalikes:

**Poison ivy**

- three divided leaves
- center leaflet on a longer stalk
- white, waxy berries along the stem
- leaves alternate on the stem
- erect shrub or climbing vine

**Fragrant sumac**

- three divided leaves
- center leaflets not on a stalk
- red, fuzzy berries at the end of stem
- erect shrub

**Box elder**

- three to seven divided leaves
- leaflets pinnate like a feather
- leaves opposite on stem
- erect tree

**Virginia creeper**

- three to five divided leaves
- leaflets palmate like an outstretched hand
- blue-black berries along the stem
- trailing or climbing vine

The white, waxy berries are a popular food for songbirds during fall migration and in winter when other foods are scarce. Robins, catbirds and grosbeaks especially like the berries. Many birds feed on insects hiding in the tangled vines. Small mammals and deer browse on the poison ivy twigs, foliage and berries.

**CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF,** poison oak is found only in a few counties in extreme southern Missouri. Another common misconception is the belief that poison sumac or sumac grows in Missouri. This shrub or small tree resembles smooth sumac but has never been found in the state.

http://www.conservation.state.mo.us/nathis/plantpage/flora/poivy/
Dear Parent/Guardian,

I look forward to an exciting year of learning in Honors Biology II. In this class we will complete field research at the river and ponds. I need your permission to take your students on these class trips throughout the school year. If you would like to attend any of these class trips throughout the year, we would enjoy sharing the experience with you. Please sign below to give your student permission to attend the class trips. The signature also indicates that you also expect the best behavior from your student during the trip and that they follow all school, class, and safety rules. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hardin
Honors Biology II Teacher

P.S. Please contact me via email regarding any questions/concerns.

I give ___________________________(Printed Student Name) permission to attend all Honors Biology II class trips throughout the school year.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature _________________________________
Honors Biology 2 Expectations

Class Expectations/Rules – Learning is the priority. As a member of the class, you are expected to act responsibly and contribute to an orderly learning environment. Learning is the priority and every member of the class has a right to learn with the minimum restrictions/distractions. Here are the basic class rules:

1) Respect Your Classmates, Class Materials, and Teacher.
2) Listen and Promptly Follow Directions.
3) Raise Your Hand Before Speaking or Leaving Your Seat.

Consequences for not following rules/expectations are as follows:
1) Warning – Point loss on assignment
2) Warning – point loss on assignment – after class talk
3) Detention
4) Removal from learning environment
As the educator, I may choose to bypass steps above based on the severity of the infraction and/or disruption to the learning process.

Class Policies

Class Disruptions: Learning is the priority so be mindful of the learning process. So, don’t sharpen pencils, walk across the room, walk in front of class speakers, . . .

Come to Class Prepared: Bring all class materials, assignments and supplies every day.

Language: Choose your words carefully. Appropriate, positive, and respectful language is expected.

Tardies- Students are expected to be in their seat in class when the bell rings. If you are late from another class, silently proceed to your seat without talking to anybody with the pass from your teacher. I come and get the pass from you or call you up at an opportune time (as to keep any disruption to the learning environment to a minimum). Unexcused tardiness results in a detention.

Cell Phones: Learning is the priority and therefore this class is a cell phone free environment. Cell phones should be completely out of sight (in locker/zipped up in backpack and set to silent) and should not sound or vibrate during class. Cell phone sounding in class and use is forbidden and will be confiscated and sent to the office without warning.
- Any use of a cell phone during a quiz or test results in a zero.
**Laptops/iPads/Electronic Devices:** These devices may be used in my class as long as they are used to work on assignments in my class, however, please be aware that this is a lab classroom and that water and other liquid chemicals are used regularly. So, if a student chooses to bring and electronic device into the classroom, it is the student’s responsibility to take the proper precautions to prevent property damage.

In addition, the screen should be in easy view of the teacher and should expect to get a “screen check” which is when the student moves his/her hands away from the device so the teacher can check for appropriate use.

**Lab:** SAFETY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY DURING LAB ACTIVITIES. No arguing about safety rules will be tolerated. Each student is expected to follow all lab rules to ensure the safety of the student and everyone in the classroom. Some labs may have special safety procedures. Students will be informed ahead of time if it is necessary to dress a certain way for safety. Students are expected to keep their lab areas clean.

Failure to follow lab rules areas will result in removal from the classroom and a zero for the assignment/lab. To be able to earn all possible points for laboratory assignments, each student will be responsible to keep the classroom clean, especially in his/her work area.

**Assignments:**

- **Due Dates:** Assignments given in class are due the next day in class unless otherwise specified.
- **Homework:** Homework is due at the beginning of class. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT. Last minute writing and/or copying may result in a zero. Students may be asked to complete unfinished work in the hallway, as they are unprepared for what we are doing in class.
- **Work Quality:** Assignments are expected to be neat, detailed, and handwritten in complete sentences (unless otherwise specified). Assignments should be of high quality and should show evidence of time investment. All work should be shown when using calculations.
- **Copying/Plagiarism:** Students are expected to do their own work in their own wording. Copying/Plagiarizing (whether word for word or slightly changing the wording) will result in a zero.
- **Projects:** Projects are due the date they are assigned whether you are here or not. Projected turned in late will lose 10% each day it is late.
- **Absent Work:** If you miss a test/quiz/lab, please schedule a time to promptly make this up. School policy dictates that you have as many days to make up the assignments as you miss due to excused absences. Anything missed during an unexcused absence cannot be competed for credit and will receive a zero. If you are just absent the day of the test/quiz, you are expected to take it the day you return.
**Testing Environment:** Students are expected to be silent during tests/quizzes. Any talking or communicating during tests/quizzes will result in a zero for both parties.

**Attendance –** I want to see you!! Being in class is vital to learning the material and passing the class.

**Grading:** The following will make up the components of the grade in the class.
- Class Assignments
- Homework Assignments
- Labs

**Summative Assessments**
- Quizzes
- Lab Practicals
- Exam Grades- Cumulative Exams will count as a grade on the quarter and will be given at the end of the 1st and 2nd quarter of the exam. Your final exam grade will be the average of the two exams.

**Grading Scale:**
- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89.9%
- C: 70-79.9%
- D: 60-69.9%
- F: 0-59.9%

**Materials:**
Composition book; pencil; pen (black/blue and other colors); highlighters (various colors); colored pencils; calculator; notecards; gloves for dissections, paper, sticky note pad, transparent tape; 3 ring binder

**Contact Information:** Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions or concerns via email at phardin@wayne-local.com, I also have information regarding the class on my webpage at http://mrhardinsclass.weebly.com

**Need Help?** I am available after school for help on Mondays and Thursdays until 3:30. There is a sign up calendar on the wall by the door in my classroom. You can talk to me about other days I have available for help and I will work with you. If you would like to come in for ETEH, please let me know the week prior and I will put you on my list (this doesn’t guarantee you will be on my list as other teachers may request you).
How to be Successful:
1. Participate daily with a positive attitude. The more involved you are, the more success you will have.
2. Ask lots of questions to make your understanding clear.
3. Come in for help when you need it! I am here for your success! See above.
4. Make sure you understand what we are doing on assignments, during activities and in lab. These are designed to help you learn, so make sure you connect this to class material.
5. Have a schedule that you follow for doing homework and studying.
6. Study daily! There is a lot to learn so invest the time to learn the material and succeed.
7. Do more than what is asked of you!
8. Start studying for tests ahead of time.
9. Make connections to your daily life.
10. Use terms in your daily life. The more you use it, the better you will learn it.
11. Talk to your family about what you learned in class. Explaining information to others will help you learn it better yourself.
12. Develop study groups.
13. Have fun!!
Student Copy Signature Page – Keep this in your class materials for reference.

Student: I read and understand the Honors Biology 2 rules and expectations as outlined in the syllabus. I know that I am expected to follow the rules, expectations and policies discussed in the syllabus.

Student Name (Print)_______________________________

Student Signature_______________________________

Parent/Guardian: I have read and understand the Honors Biology 2 rules and expectations as outlined in the syllabus. I know that my student is expected to follow the rules, expectations and policies discussed in the syllabus.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)_______________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature_______________________________

Parent/Guardian email_______________________________

Parent/Guardian Phone Number____________________________
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