

Honors Biology - 2022-23
Course Overview and Expectations
Ms. Booker
bookerc@wellesleys.org

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Honors Biology! I hope this year is everything you hope that it is plus more! In this course, we will explore the major concepts in biology, emphasizing problem solving, laboratory explorations and application of biology to everyday life. The keys to success in this course are to be an active listener, a cooperative and collaborative learner, and a diligent note taker. These critical skills must be developed as they will not only help you succeed in understanding challenging concepts presented in Biology, but will serve you well in the long run.

Students must take responsibility for their own learning and develop a sense of self agency in order to be successful. This includes working hard inside the classroom as well as putting the same effort when they exit the classroom. Students will need to be able to self advocate for themselves which can be accomplished by being self motivated and a great communicator. I am always available by appointment. My email address can be found at the top of this document.

Please review the class policies, procedures and expectations *found on the next page*. **Please provide a signature to acknowledge that you have read and agree to the information provided.** Understanding and following these expectations will serve as a solid foundation for your success in Honors Biology.

Parents/Guardians: Please feel free to contact me via email with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Honors Biology: Policies and Procedures

Please remember that the policies, rules and expectations outlined in the WHS Student Handbook apply to students at all times.

Teacher: Ms. Booker

Email: bookerc@wellesleyps.org

Classroom: Room 338, Office is in 358 (across the hall from 337)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:35-3:05

Website: Canvas

I. General Classroom Culture

The core values of Wellesley High School (Academic Excellence, Respect for Human Differences, Cooperative and Caring Relationships, and Commitment to Community) will always be upheld as a standard in our learning community and in our classroom. I always encourage and expect members of our class to treat each other and members of our WHS community with respect, kindness, compassion, and openness. This also includes academic integrity, daily preparation for active participation with an emphasis on diversity and inclusion.

II. Materials you will need/are suggested:

- 3 ring binder with loose-leaf paper or notebook
- Pens and pencils
- Charged laptop/charger
- Headphones (sometimes we view videos during classwork)

Class Textbook: Campbell Biology Concepts & Connections, 8th Ed. (**\$120 replacement cost**)

III. Student Evaluation:

Student work in Biology will fall into either the category of Assessments or Assignments.

Assessments will be worth 60% of your grade each term, and will include tests, quizzes, some major projects, and formative assessments after some classwork, homework and lab assignments.

Assignments will be worth 40% of your grade each term, and will include classwork, homework, labs, Canvas quizzes, and other assignments.

❖ Assessments (Tests and Quizzes): 60%

❖ Assignments (Labs/projects): 40%

This course will also assess students using a Midyear Exam, a formal written Lab Report for a long-term experimental project, and a Final Exam. More details on the weighting of these assessments will be provided, but please note that you will take these exams.

IV. Attendance:

Please make every effort to attend class and be on time - assuming you are symptom free - *do not come to school with new symptoms*. **Labs BEGIN at 7:29 am**. If you have a written excuse for being late, take it to the house office before coming to class. If you are late

without a written excuse, come directly to class. *All attendance policies outlined in the student handbook will be followed.* If you know you will be absent or tardy from class, please email me (bookerc@wellesleysps.org) ASAP. It is important for you to contact me about missed work or you will fall behind. **Communication is key!!**

V. Academic Honesty/Integrity

Please be clear that cheating, copying HW, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will NOT BE TOLERATED. **This includes the sharing of HW, classwork and most documents.** I will indicate if an assignment should be done in groups. If you need clarity, ask! If they should occur, a failing grade for that particular activity will be assessed for all parties involved. The appropriate assistant principal will be contacted as well as parents/guardians.

VI. Canvas

A majority of course materials will be on Canvas. Units will be outlined in module format and links to all documents, homework assignments, powerpoints, labs, etc. will be found in these modules under Daily Agenda. The announcement feature will be regularly used for any and all updates, especially if there is a last minute change (like a canceled class- this is rare, but it happens occasionally). Please check Canvas regularly for course information, updates and meeting links. If you are absent, this is a good place to check. ***I strongly encourage you to download the Canvas app to your cell phones and allow push notifications so you have the most up to date information possible.***

VII. Technology Use (Phones and Laptops)

Cell phones will remain turned off/silenced and in backpacks (NOT in pockets!). (See [‘Brain Drain’](#) for an evidence-based approach to this policy - it was highlighted in a [TeenVogue](#) article too). *Occasionally*, phones will be used as tools (for instance the camera is valuable for data collection) but usually they are off and out of sight. The use of laptops will be frequent. The appropriate use of technology is expected and the district [acceptable use policy](#) for technology & [BYOL agreement](#) will be adhered to at all times (frequent infractions include prohibited behaviors such as texting or watching non-school related videos during class time).

I look forward to working with each of you this year. Please know that I am here to help you learn and succeed in biology. I hope this will be a rewarding year for all of us.

***Please remember to sign and acknowledge this document. ***

Sincerely,

Chelsea Booker