

HONORS'S BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

McDonough High School

Instructor: Ms. Dorothea L. Wilson

Biology Team Members: Ms. T. Hyman, Mrs. L. Karr, and Ms. N. Seyda

Room Number: 342, 2nd and 4th Blocks

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2026 - 2027



I. Course Description:

The Biology Georgia Standards of Excellence are designed to continue the student investigations of the life science that began in grades k-8 and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology for focusing on the identification of patterns, processes, and relationships of living organisms. These standards include more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students investigate biological concepts through experiences in laboratories and field work using the process of inquiry.

II. Text:

There is an Online HMH Textbook.

III. Materials Required Daily:

- 1) Pen (blue or black ink only) or Pencil
- 2) Loose leaf paper
- 3) 3-Ring Binder
- 4) Composition book (will always stay in the classroom)
- 5) A Glue Stick
- 6) Colored Pencils

IV. Course Content Skills and Standards

A. Science Skills

Students will:

- Use science process skills in laboratory or field investigations, including observation, classification, communication, metric measurement, prediction, inference and, collecting and analyzing data
- Use traditional reference materials to explore background and historical information regarding a scientific concept
- Learn and use, on a regular basis, standard safety practices for laboratory or field investigations
- Identify the significance of accurate, precise, and subjective/objective measurements, use of reliable tools, safety measure, and career training in environmental monitoring

B. Course Content Standards

STUDENTS WILL...

SB1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze the nature of the relationship between structures and functions of living cells.

SB2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze how genetic information is expressed in cells.

SB3. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to analyze how biological traits are passed on to successive generations.

SB4. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to illustrate the organization of interacting systems within single-cell and multi-cell organisms.

SB5. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to assess the interdependence of all organisms on one another and their environment.

SB6. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to assess the theory of evolution.

V. Classroom Format, Requirements, and Evaluation:

This course uses a variety of classroom methods, including lectures, class discussions, group work, individual work, labs, field studies, student written and oral projects, and active student participation. Students are expected to participate in and complete all aspects of required work to the best of their ability. Student achievement will be evaluated in a holistic manner, considering all aspects of performance.

Tests and quizzes will be given regularly throughout the semester, with a comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester.

VI. Grading System:

Student grades will be recorded in the district mandated online portal, Infinite Campus.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Tests	40%
Quizzes	
Labs & Research	
Class work & Homework &	40%
Class Participation	
Final Exam/ Milestone	20%

Grading Scale

A= 100-90

B= 89-80

C= 70-79

F= 69-0

VII. Exam Grade Remediation

Students will be given the opportunity to participate in exam remediation for exams that they earn a non-passing (69% or lower) grade on. This is an opportunity for students to take a 2nd exam on the same material in a different format than the original exam.

The guidelines for this opportunity are as follows:

- Exam remediation occurs during tutorial hours ONLY (not during class)
- Exam remediation is available only to students who earn a 69 or below on an exam grade
- Exam remediation must be completed within one week of the return of the graded exam

VII. Student Success:

I am extremely interested in the success of every student. If you are having trouble with a particular assignment or concept, do not hesitate to seek help from me. I am available for extra help during tutorial hours and before and after school. Students and parents are encouraged to also use email to contact me at Dorothea.wilson@henry.k12.ga.us

VIII. Policies & Procedures:

i. ATTENDANCE:

To succeed in this class, a student **MUST** be present. After returning from an absence, it is the student's responsibility to provide the instructor with an excuse form issued by the attendance office within 3 days of returning from an absence.

It is the student's responsibility to retrieve the assignments, and the notes missed when absent for any reason. **Make-up work will not be addressed during class. Students must see Ms. Wilson during tutorial hours or by appointment to receive make-up work.** Remember: STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND NOTES MISSED DUE TO AN ABSENCE FOR ANY REASON.

ii. TARDINESS:

Tardy students will not be admitted into the classroom without an excuse from the attendance or the discipline office. A student is considered tardy if they are not inside of the classroom when the tardy bell rings. **Loitering in the hallway or at the classroom door until the bell rings is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.**

iii. MAKE-UP WORK:

It is the student's responsibility to inquire about what assignments, notes, and class work they have missed when they are absent with an excuse for any reason. **Work turned in after the due date will be graded for reduced credit.** To receive make-up work from an excused absence, students must come to a tutorial or make an appointment to do so. **Make-up work will NOT be addressed during class.**

iv. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Do your own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. While it is expected that students will discuss homework and classwork assignments, a student should never submit another person's work or ideas as their own. Quizzes, tests, and exams are always individual assignments and are never collaborative.

If a student is observed copying answers from another student's completed work or attempts to submit another work or ideas as their own, then a grade of "0" will be assigned. To remove the "0," the assignment must be completed, from the start, in a tutorial under the teacher's supervision and a grade no higher than 70% can be earned.

When group work is assigned, all members of a group are expected to complete every part of that assignment themselves, in tandem.

v. DO NOT BRING TO CLASS:

The following items are strictly forbidden from the classroom. If they are observed during class time, they will be confiscated by the student and kept until the end of the day.

- Hats
- Mobile phones that are turned off (**vibrate**)
- No Food
- No Drinks other than water
- Any item deemed to interfere with instructions will be removed

Chronic use of these forbidden items in the classroom will result in further disciplinary action.

PLEASE REFER TO THE HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD POLICY REGARDING CONFISCATION OF AND RETURN OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

vi. CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

It is necessary for all students to present themselves in a mature and appropriate manner that creates the best learning environment for everybody. Students must always respect themselves, other students, the instructor, and our community. Inappropriate behavior will result in the student's parent/guardian and the school administration's involvement in correction and disciplinary action.

- vii. All students are required to do a Science Fair Project.
- viii. No Late work
- ix. No missing work
- x. ALL HONORS BIOLOGY students are required to research, conduct, perform and submit to a Science Fair Project December 2026. Information will be forthcoming.
- xi. Grades are currently updated throughout the week and on Fridays.
- xii. Some information is subject to change. Students will be notified beforehand.

PARENT/STUDENT SYLLABUS FORM

Please read, sign, date, and return this page of the syllabus to Ms. Wilson on or before:

Monday, 08/07/2026

STUDENT NAME (PRINTED): _____

CLASS PERIOD: _____

A Note to Parents & Guardians:

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have regarding your child's success. The best way to contact me is via email. My school email address is: Dorothea.wilson@henry.k12.ga.us. Likewise, I will not hesitate to contact you if it is necessary. If you do not use email, you may leave a message for me by contacting the McDonough High School primary office at 470-615-3450 or schedule a conference with your child's counselor.

We, the undersigned, have read and fully understand the guidelines for Ms. Wilson' Biology class. I agree to abide by these guidelines, and all school policies throughout the school year.

Student Signature & Date

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date

Parent Guardian Contact Information
(TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN)

Name: _____

Best Contact Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

2026-2027 District Policy: Personal Electronic Devices

Students are prohibited from using personal electronic devices or accessories during the instructional school day. A personal electronic device refers to any device utilized to access the Internet, Wi-Fi, cellular telephone signals, or to capture images or video. This includes but is not limited to cell phones, smart watches, tablets, and gaming devices.

This also includes the use of accessories. Personal electronic device accessories include any wired or wireless accessory or wearable technology that connects to a device, and any other accessory commonly used in conjunction with a personal electronic device.

Although students may possess a personal electronic device, it should not be turned on or utilized for any purpose. The above-specified devices should be turned off, placed out of sight, and not used during instructional days. This includes established school day hours and off-campus activities during the school day.

Level 1 Violation: 1.7 Misuse of Personal Electronic Devices

Unauthorized possession, displaying or using a cell phone, or other electronic communication device during the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, smartwatches, headphones, earphones, earbuds, and other listening devices.

