



Honors Biology 2023-2024

Mr. Blickley



Contact Information

Brian Blickley, Rm 312 bblickley@eanesisd.net

Website: <https://sites.google.com/eanesisd.net/whsas>

Contact: 512.732.9280 ext. 33421

Conference Period: 7th Period (8:50am – 9:40am)

About Mr. Blickley and My Classroom Expectations

Welcome to Honors Biology! My name is Mr. Blickley, and I am looking forward to being your first high school science teacher. I have taught courses for 9 years such as Biology, Biology AP, Anatomy and Physiology, Biotechnology, Medical Micro, etc, because I absolutely love all things life science! I believe this course allows students to explore inquiry and develops the critical thinking needed to start a foundation for STEM careers. I graduated from Penn State in 2013 with degrees in biochemistry and English because I think the most important skill will be to learn how to communicate your ideas and share them with the world.

Mr. Blickley's Expectations:

- 1) Build confidence to share your thoughts and ideas while listening to others with respect and attention
- 2) Approach all challenges with energy and enthusiasm while encouraging others to do the same
- 3) Develop a mindset to chase knowledge and use it to help live a better life
- 4) Become part of a community that elevates you to your best and help others rise

Let's have a great year! Sincerely, Mr. Blickley

Honors Biology Course Outline *(subject to change and dates are tentative)*

Semester One

Quarter One

Unit 01 – Chemistry of Life

[Aug 17 - Aug 25]

Unit 02 – Cells

[Aug 26 - Sept 6]

Unit 03 – Biomolecules

[Sept 7 - Sept 16]

Unit 04 – Cellular Transport

[Sept 19 - Sept 28]

Quarter Two

Unit 05 – Cellular Energy

[Sept 29 - Oct 17]

Unit 06 – Central Dogma

[Oct 18 - Nov 2]

Unit 07 – Cell Cycle & Meiosis

[Nov 3 - Nov 16]

Unit 08 – Genetics

[Nov 18 - Dec 7]

Semester Two

Quarter Three

Unit 09 – Evolution

[Jan 3 - Jan 12]

Unit 10 – Taxonomy

[Jan 17 - Jan 27]

Unit 11 – Bacteria and Viruses

[Jan 30 - Feb 8]

Quarter Four

Unit 12 – Plants

[Feb 9 - Feb 22]

Unit 13 – Human Body Systems

[Feb 23 - Mar 9]

Unit 14 – Ecology

[Mar 20 - Apr 12]

Unit 15 – STAAR and Unit Reviews

[May 3*]

Unit 14 – Dissections

[May 4 - May 17]

Grading Categories

10% Daily

30% Labs and Quizzes

60% Major (Tests & Projects)

**unit quizzes can be replaced by a higher unit test score*

Supplies

charged iPad

notebook paper or notebook

folder or binder for handouts

pens/pencils/highlighters

Tutorials

- Before school by appointment (I'm usually in my room by 8:00am)
- [NGC Library Tutorials](#) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4:30-6:00pm , Tuesday, Thursday 6:00-8:00pm)

iPad Apps & Websites

- [Google Classroom](#) – View important announcements
- Google Forms, Docs, Sheets, Slides – Used frequently for assignments
- [Google Calendar](#) – Subscribe to the Westlake Honors Biology calendar for important dates
- [Skyward](#) – Used for checking your grade and missing assignments (make sure you know your login information – it's different than your normal computer login)
- [EDPuzzle](#) – Video app used frequently in class (make sure you sign in with Google and use your school email)
- [Nearpod](#), [Kahoot](#) and [Quizizz](#) – For review
- [Mr. Blickley's Westlake Teacher Page](#) - Add to Favorites

Learning Targets

Each student will receive digital access to the learning targets at the start of each unit. This document outlines the objectives of the unit and will also serve as a review sheet for the unit. All assessments (learning checks and tests) are designed with content from the unit's learning targets.

Late Work Policy

All assignments are designed to lead the student to success on assessments. Late work in the Daily Grade (10%) category and Lab Grade (30%) category will be accepted up until the unit assessment with a maximum grade of a 70.

Makeup Work Policy (due to school absences)

For every **one day** a student is absent, the student will have one school day to make up assignments. The

student is responsible for getting the assignments that were missed. School related activities are known in advance and therefore we request the assignment to be due on time, if possible.

Retesting Policy

- Students may retest any or all unit tests.
- Students may retest any unit test one time.
- The maximum score a student can receive on a retest is a 80.
- Upon retesting, the original test grade is forfeited and the final grade is recorded.
- The retest format can be a combination of selected response and short answer questions.
- In order to be eligible to retest, the student must have ALL unit labs turned in.
- The student must notify the instructor if he/she chooses to retest.
- The student must complete the retest before or after school within five school days after classroom review of the unit test.

Academic Honor Code

Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Honor Code as outlined in the WHS Student Handbook (page 40). Any student who is caught violating the Academic Honor Code will be given consequences as outlined in the code.

Test Access Policy

Unit tests are reviewed in class 2 days after taking the test. Test grades will be released after students have viewed the graded tests. Tests are not to be removed from the classroom. Parents wishing to view the test after student completion of the test may schedule an appointment with the instructor to view the test. Formative assessments (learning checks) will be handed back to students 2 days after taking the assignment and may be kept with the student.

Laboratory Safety

A student will be removed from the science activity area by the teacher if the student is:

- behaving in such a manner that he/she can cause injury to themselves or to other students.
- NOT following the prescribed safety rules for the biology activity area or the particular biology activity being conducted.
- going beyond the limits of the biology activity into areas that may lead to an unsafe situation.
- has not completed the pre-experiment activities that will allow them to work in the laboratory situation.
- Taking photos of other students or experiments without permission

Personal Electronic Device Policy (as outlined in the WHS Student Handbook, pg 67)

- In all grades, wearable technology (such as smartwatches or fitness monitors) can be worn at school and remain powered on, but students must follow the below rules for access, use, and non-disruption.
- In grades 9-12, students are not permitted to display, turn on, or use a personal device, during instructional class periods.
- For grades 9-12, an instructional class period is the time from the tardy bell to the dismissal bell for a class period, and does not include lunch, passing periods, and off periods. With specific teacher permission, students can access personal devices to listen to music during independent study or self-paced time. When appropriate for instructional use, a department can allow the use of a personal device to supplement the learning, as published in the course syllabus.
- In all grades, when not authorized, personal devices (other than wearable technology) should be stored in backpacks or lockers and turned off or silenced.
- In all grades, a student is authorized to use a personal device if the student's Individual Health Plan, Section 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan specifies a required academic or health use or applicable accommodation.

- In all grades, in the event of a personal or family emergency, a student needing to use or access a personal device may work with campus administration on an appropriate exception to these rules.
-