1. **Name of Course:** Honors Biology
2. **Meeting time:** Block 2
3. **Location:** Room 252
4. **Instructor’s name and contact information**:

Mr. Michael Owdij - (908) 713-4199 ext 4367 - [mowdij@](mailto:mowdij@)nhvweb.net

\*Contact through email is preferred and has the lowest turnaround time.

1. **Course description:**

Honors Biology is an intensive course that introduces students to all of the unifying principles of the life sciences. This course is also designed to address all of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards for high school biology and to prepare students for the New Jersey BCT. In addition to exposing students to the factual content of biology, learning by inquiry is also a sub-theme which is implemented throughout the course. Honors Biology meets for five days a week for three mods during the scheduled time. Honors Biology satisfies one of the high school graduation requirements in science.

1. **Major** **Units** **of** **Studies**:
   1. Introduction to Biology
   2. The Cell
   3. Genetics
   4. Evolution
   5. Ecology/Populations
   6. Organism Structure and Function
2. **Classroom rules**:

The classroom is a learning environment that should be safe, clean and welcoming to all persons involved. Basic classroom rules are essential to keeping the classroom a good learning environment.

1. Ensure that safety rules are always followed
2. Respect all members of the class
3. Show up to class on time and work until the bell rings
4. Read all directions before acting. Failure to read directions can cause safety hazards.

If the classroom rules are violated, the following consequences will be enacted.

First Offence – Verbal Warning

Second Offence – Written or Verbal warning sent home plus a teacher detention

Third Offence – Discipline Referral to the main office

Detentions may be served after school on late bus days or in the mornings before school. The time and location of the detention is at the discretion of the teacher. Failure to serve a detention will result in a Discipline Referral to the main office.

1. **Grading** **Breakdown:**

The following grading system will be utilized for each marking period.

Homework: 15%

* All homework must be handed in the day after it is assigned, unless otherwise specified.
* Late homework is not accepted, and will result in a zero
* Homework is considered late if it is not turned in at the beginning of the period, not during or after.

Labs/Activities: 25%

* Labs will be done during class time in an assigned group. The lab “write-up” may be submitted as a group for a SHARED grade OR, if you choose to submit a lab individually, you may, for an INDIVIDUAL grade.
* If it is a group grade, each member should have a copy.

Quizzes: 15%

* A quiz may be announced, unannounced, or a notebook quiz.
* A quiz can include a variety of question types: multiple choice, diagrams, matching, true/false, essays, DBQs, verbal or projects.
* If you are absent the day of a test or quiz, you must make it up the day you return (with a valid excuse).

Tests: 40%

* Tests will be given at the end of a unit, chapter or major theme.
* Tests can include a variety of question types: multiple choice, diagrams, matching, true/false, essays, DBQs, verbal or projects.
* A missed test must be made up as soon as possible, with an arrangement from the teacher

Class Participation: 5%

* Class participation is based on class involvement, willingness to complete class assignments and behavior in class.
* Your grade will also be based on cooperation with other students.
* Attendance in class will be a great factor in your grade… if you do not attend class, you cannot be graded on your performance!

Additional Information:

* Tests will be in multiple forms: multiple choice (scantron), short answer, diagram recognition, essay and more.
* A project may be substituted for a test or quiz in some instances.
* It is your responsibility to get all assignments missed in a timely fashion and make them up according to the school policy.

**How do I succeed in this class?**

* Have a positive mental attitude
* Use a planner to keep track of assignment due dates and test dates.
* Complete *all* assignments **on time**
* Give 100% effort on all assignments
* Pay attention in class
* Be an active learner
* Limit absences
* Study small amounts every day. Do not cram!
* Take detailed notes and rewrite those notes at home
* Review and reflect daily about what we are learning in class. Remember, understanding new material takes time.
* Ask questions. REMEMBER: No question is silly.
* Seek extra help during SAT if you don’t understand a topic.
* Actively participate in extra credit opportunities

**IX: Class Participation:**

You are expected to come prepared to class, having reviewed the material to be covered and ready to submit homework assignments on time.

For any questions about class participation, please refer to the Class Participation Rubric that will be used to determine your class participation grade.

1. **Assignment and Assessments**

**Short-Term Homework Assignments** - Short-term homework assignments are given on an ongoing basis in all academic courses. Credit for short-term homework assignments will only be given if they are submitted on the due date at the designated time. Students are expected to follow the guidelines established by North Hunterdon High School for the submission of work if they are absent on the due date for the entire school day. Specific IEP stipulations and 504 plan modifications are exceptions to this policy.

**Major Assessments -** Major assessments are required course components in allacademic courses,and they will be evaluated using corresponding rubrics. Failure to complete any of the designated criteria for a major assessment or minimal demonstration of effort on any facet of a major assessment will have a negative impact on student performance. Students are strongly advised to develop their projects beyond the minimum passing levels as determined by the instructor, and they are encouraged to confer with the instructor on ways in which they can develop their final products. Timely completion is a fundamental criterion for all major assessments: late assignments will be penalized according to the established policy:

* 10% grade reduction off of the final grade if the major assessment is not submitted on the due date at the designated time. Additional 10% reductions will be given for two additional days. After this time has passed, the grade is reduced to no credit (0%).

If a student is in school on the day in which a major assessment is due and is absent from class, the assignment should be e-mailed or submitted to the instructor by the end of the school day. Failure to communicate in any way shape or form by the end of the day will result in the established late penalty. Exceptions to this policy will be up to the discretion of the instructor and/or the department supervisor. Accommodations will be made if there are extenuating circumstances and proof of the circumstances. Specific IEP stipulations and 504 Plan modifications are also exceptions.

1. **Academic Integrity Policies**

**The consequences for academic dishonesty on a major assessment will correspond to the penalties outlined by North Hunterdon High School.**

1. **Materials:** 
   1. 3 ring binder with dividers
   2. 3 ring hole punch
   3. Mini stapler
   4. Pen and pencil

Notebook Requirements:

Each student should have a 3-ring notebook with paper and dividers. The notebook will be divided into the following 5 sections: *Homework, Class Notes, Activities, Labs, and Tests/Quizzes.* ***Each student must keep an organized notebook, for success in this course.*** *There will be many handouts over the course of the year.*