

Biology



● Prerequisites: Middle school science

● Course Description:

- Introductory course that covers a broad range of topics: ecology, biochemistry, cells, energy in living systems, genetics, evolution, classification and human biology
- Laboratory investigations are an integral part of the course and require students to gather and interpret data, draw conclusions, and find connections between concepts learned throughout the year.

● Outside Work (scale of 1-5):

- Standard: 3
- Honors: 4



Honors vs. General Biology

| | <u>Standard Biology</u> | <u>Honors Biology</u> |
|--|--|---|
| Expectations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Organized<input type="checkbox"/> Understanding of deadlines<input type="checkbox"/> Motivated to self advocate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Strong work ethic<input type="checkbox"/> Learns for understanding rather than grades<input type="checkbox"/> Highly organized<input type="checkbox"/> Resilient<input type="checkbox"/> Self-advocate |
| Analysis & Critical Thinking Skills | Developing, with more teacher guidance | Developing, with less teacher guidance and more autonomous work from students |
| Homework (Average!) | 30 minutes per class | 30-45 minutes per class (Excluding the science fair project) |
| Tests per Quarter | 2-4 Unit Tests 1 Cumulative Quarter Exam | 2-4 Unit Tests 1 Cumulative Quarter Exam |



Honors vs. General Biology

| | <u>Standard Biology</u> | <u>Honors Biology</u> |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Pacing | Frequent checkpoints per unit | Rigorous pacing with fewer checkpoints per unit |
| Depth of Knowledge | VA SOL Standards and related topics and activities | VA SOL Standards with more in-depth information and additional learning extensions |
| Final Project | Group-created with individual components | Independent Science Fair (Conducted outside of class) <u>AND</u> Final Group Project |
| End of Course Test | SOL | SOL |