

Welcome to Honors Biology,

The next school year will be an exciting time in Honors Biology! Instead of a traditional unit based curriculum, we will be working on storylines. A storyline is a logical sequence of lessons, in which each step is driven by students' questions that arise from their interactions with phenomena. Instead of focusing on one topic, we will allow the phenomena to drive the material that is covered, meaning we will pull from all areas of biology within a single storyline.

We will also be piloting a hydroponics lab activity with a new plant based lab each 9 weeks. Hydroponics is a type of horticulture which involves growing plants without soil, by using minerals dissolved in water. This will allow you to grow and harvest various edible plants, while exploring different variables that affect plant growth.

We will also be implementing a new “badge” system. The purpose of this system will be to help you and me keep track of your work and progress in the class, while earning digital badges along the way.

As you are aware, this is an honors level course. As we learn biology concepts throughout the year, we will also be working to prepare you for future higher level science courses. Certain expectations come along with these higher level classes. You can expect to begin to learn scientific writing in the form of lab reports and analyzing scientific data. In addition, there is the expectation that any classwork that is not completed in class will be finished as homework that same day. Don't stress out! It won't be hours of homework--just enough to keep the thought processes going. Finally, Honors Biology has a summer assignment. You can find this assignment at the bottom of this letter

Our first storyline will focus on Africa. Please watch the video below before the first day of school.

<https://vimeo.com/456641482/4666e16bc2>

We will be doing a year-long lab utilizing Hydroponics. Please watch the video below before the first day of school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzBK4QZSQaY>

Things you need to know to succeed....

Purpose:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCgLjDDD4ek>

Pay attention to Step 5... especially #2 and #3. You have been working on #1, this year we will be working on these types (2 and 3) of hypotheses.

We can't wait to see you at the High School,  
The Honors Biology Team

