2016-2017 Honors Biology Course Syllabus

*Mrs. Caskey*

*Email:* *lcaskey@rsd17.org*

*860-345-8541 ext. 2502*

*Office Hours: 1st Lunch wave Monday and Wednesday*

*The mission of Haddam-Killingworth High School is to provide a personalized and collective experience through which students are challenged to develop the knowledge, skills, and work ethic to contribute to a global society.*

1. **Course Description – Biology Honors (3051H**): Biology courses are designed to provide information regarding fundamental concepts of life and life processes with an emphasis on systems and functions. Biology Honors level is an introductory course with a sequential approach to the biological sciences and involves rigorous and investigative study with an emphasis on the chemistry of life.
2. **Course Topics:**

Biochemistry and Enzymes

Cells and Cellular Transport

Bacteria and Viruses

Photosynthesis & Cellular respiration

Biotechnology

DNA and Protein Synthesis

Cell Division & Genetics

Evolution and Natural Selection

Population Ecology

CAPT Review

Nervous System

Ecology

III. **Required Materials**: All students must have the following supplies for every class.

* Three ring binder and notebook used only for your biology class. Keeping an organized notebook/binder is essential for your success in this class.
* Writing implements (pens, pencils, and highlighters)
* Calculator
* Agenda
* You should know your login and password for school computers

 **Suggested Materials**:

* Computer with high-speed internet access and a printer
* Microsoft Office software
* Flash drive or internet storage access (e.g., Google drive, OneDrive)

**Textbook**: Phelan, J. 2010. What Is Life? A Guide to Biology. New York: W.H. Freeman and Company.

IV. **Attendance/Absences:**

1. Attendance – in compliance with the HKHS Student Handbook.
2. Absences - if you are absent from class for any reason, excused or unexcused, **it is your responsibility to obtain and make up the missing work**. If needed, you can download most assignments from my website [www.lcaskey.rsd17.org](http://www.lcaskey.rsd17.org). All make-up work is due within the number of class periods missed. For example, if a student misses two classes, they will have two classes from the time they return to submit the work for full credit. Make up work will not be completed during regular class time. Absences will not delay any assessment except under special circumstances approved by your instructor. **If you are absent the day of an assessment, you will take the assessment (test, etc.,) on the next day you are present**.

V. **Science Department Homework Policy**: Homework is defined as the time students spend outside the classroom in assigned learning activities. The Haddam-Killingworth High School Science Department believes that homework should be to practice, reinforce, or apply acquired skills and knowledge. We also believe, as research supports, that assignments completed and well done are an effective part of the learning process. Homework should serve in the development of independent study skills and we believe that completing homework is the responsibility of the student.

It is the intention of the Haddam-Killingworth High School Science Department to assign relevant and meaningful homework assignments that reinforce classroom learning objectives. Homework should provide the opportunity for students to apply and reinforce information presented in class, complete unfinished class assignments and build student responsibility, self-discipline, and lifelong learning habits.

Homework will be assigned regularly and it is the responsibility of the student to record assignments in their agendas. Homework should be handed in at the beginning of class on the day it is due. Homework assignments are listed on my website ([www.lcaskey.rsd17.org](http://www.lcaskey.rsd17.org)) and most assignments can be downloaded from the website. I do not give extra credit assignments.

There are two types of homework:

 *Monitored homework* is not graded but will be assessed in PowerSchool as follows:

2 (Valid attempt at completing homework and handed in on time)

1 (Partial attempt at completing homework)

0 (No attempt at completing homework)

*Graded homework/classwork* – Graded work, more in depth assignments which will be given a grade based on the total points (e.g., 65/70 = 93%)

Written assignments must be turned in electronically to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) and as a hard copy. You will set up an account on the Turnitin website at the beginning of the school year.

**Your Turnitin Class ID Number is: 13117828**

**Your Turnitin Class Password is: Honors**

Late work: Any work that is turned in late is subject to loss of points or credits.

**VI. Grading Policy:**

Your final course grade will consist of the following:

Percent breakdown for each quarter:

Monitored Homework 0%

Graded Homework / Graded Classwork 10%

Labs and Projects 30%

Tests and quizzes 60%

Midyear grades: Quarter 1 - 40%, Quarter 2 - 40%, Midyear Exam - 20%

Final grades: Quarter 1 - 20%, Quarter 2 - 20%, Quarter 3 – 20%, Midyear Exam - 10%, Final Exam- 10%

**VII: Powerschool**: Grades can be accessed online through Power School at [www.rsd17.org](http://www.rsd17.org). Grades will be updated weekly. Assignments that are turned in late will be marked with “L” and missing assignments will be given a grade of zero and marked with an “M”. If you are absent for assessment or assignment, a zero will be entered along with an “M” for missing, indicating you were absent and need to make up the assignment.

In addition, PowerSchool will be used as a homework calendar. All assignments will be posted on PowerSchool; therefore it is important that you check Powerschool frequently for assignment due dates.

**VIII. Electronic Devices and Bring Own Technology**:

Cell phones and all other electronic devices (e.g. IPod) may not be used during class periods except when the technology is explicitly used for instruction and learning under the direction of the teacher. The only acceptable place and time to use an electronic device such as a cell phone is during passing time and lunch – and only in the hallways and in the cafeteria. Student tardiness to class due to phone use is unacceptable, as is leaving class to use the phone in the hallway or lavatory. In addition, headphones shall not be used at all except in the cafeteria during lunch. Electronic devices will be removed from the student and placed in a secure location for the remainder of class. Additional

**IX. Laboratory activities**

Laboratory safety is of the upmost importance in the science classroom. All classroom rules and safety procedures must be strictly adhered to during laboratory activities. Our classroom is a science lab room – state law and OSHA regulations DO NOT allow food or drink during lab time. Failure to comply with these rules will result in removal from the classroom and a grade of zero for the activity.

Students will not be allowed to conduct labs until the safety contract is signed and turned in to me. In addition, students must be dressed appropriately for the lab. Closed toe shoes, pants, long hair pulled back, and no baggy clothes or accessories are required for laboratory activities. If a student is dressed inappropriately for lab activities, the student will receive a zero for the lab and a written assignment (not all labs will be able to be made up).

**X**. **Extra Help** – please feel free to contact me via email or phone, or arrange a time to meet with me during my office house if you are concerned about your work in class or you do not understand the material we are studying. My office hours are on Monday and Wednesday during first lunch and after school by appointment.

**XI**. **My Expectations**

This classroom is run on the basis of mutual respect.

* Come to class prepared; do not disrupt learning to retrieve forgotten books, writing implements, or other items.
* All electronic devices must be turned off and stored securely.
* Please respect your classmates and myself when we are speaking.
* Take your seat when you arrive in class and be ready to work when the bell rings.
* Take pride in your work – do your best!

*Consequences*:

* Talking or disturbing class – initial warning, then lunch detention
* Incomplete work – you will be asked to complete it during first lunch.

*I’m looking forward to a wonderful and productive year with you!*

**Please read the class syllabus and policies with your parent(s)/guardian(s), then sign and return the attached acknowledgement form to me. This syllabus and policy should be kept and used as a reference. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 860-345-8541, ext. 2502 or email me at** **lcaskey@rsd17.org****.**

**Student and Parent Agreement for Honors Biology Class Syllabus and Policies**

 **I have read and understood, and I will comply with all of the policies and procedures as stated in the class syllabus and policy for Biology with Mrs. Caskey for the 2016-2017 year.**

**Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Contact Information:**