



Choosing Excellence

# COURSE SYLLABUS BIOLOGY HONORS

Biology Honors (High School Credit)  
Course #: 2000-3200

Swift Creek Middle School  
2100 Pedrick Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32317  
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[www.swiftcreek.k12.fl.us](http://www.swiftcreek.k12.fl.us)

Link to Florida Standards (NGSSS): <http://www.cpalms.org/Standards/FLStandardSearch.aspx>

Link to Common Core Standards (CCC): <http://www.corestandards.org>

<b>COURSE INSTRUCTOR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	Colleen Hosford
	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	<a href="mailto:hosfordc@leonschools.net">hosfordc@leonschools.net</a>
	<b>WEBSITE</b>	<a href="http://mrshosfordscience.weebly.com">http://mrshosfordscience.weebly.com</a>
	<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	Email is best. If email is unavailable, please leave your name, a call-back number, and a short message with the school receptionist. Your call will be returned at the first opportunity.
<b>COURSE DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>The purpose of this course is to give students a solid foundation in biology that can be applied to other high school science courses, including Advanced Placement Biology. Biology is the study of life and is broken down into many specialized fields.</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks:</b> Chemistry of Life, Cell Structures</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks:</b> Cell functions, and cell reproduction.</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks:</b> Genetics (inheritance, DNA, and biotechnologies used to study these fields), Classification</p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks:</b> Biological Diversity (history of life, evolution, and the organization of life), Ecology (relationships between organisms) and review for End of Course exam.</p> <p>*All ESE/504/ESOL student accommodations will be provided within the classroom.</p>	
<b>COURSE RESOURCES</b>	<b>TEXTBOOK</b>	<p><i>Miller &amp; Levine Biology</i></p> <p>Student Reading and Study Guide Workbook will be issued to students at the beginning of the school year. A class-set of books will be used in the classroom and an End of Course practice workbook will be ordered for students (using collected lab fees) in January.</p>
	<b>MATERIALS</b>	<p>Students must bring these items to class <b>EVERY DAY</b> to be prepared for science class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Writing utensil (pencil or black/blue pen, please no red or metallic ink!)</li> <li>2. Notebook paper (loose-leaf; not torn from a spiral).</li> <li>3. Science Notebook (3 ring binder with pockets and 5 dividers).</li> <li>4. <b>Planner</b> (for daily documentation of assignments and homework)</li> </ol>
	<b>FEES</b>	<p>In this science course, your student will be participating in the following labs: <i>Organic Molecule Modeling, Properties of Water, DNA Extraction, Mitosis and Meiosis Lab, DNA modeling, Photosynthesis and many others as determined by student progress and interest.</i> Please be advised that labs are subject to change based on curriculum progression and student performance throughout the year. In order to purchase the materials needed for these labs, a <b>\$5.00 science lab fee will be collected</b> from every student. In addition to this, students will need to purchase the End of Course Exam Prep book to help them prepare for the exam. These books cost \$10 each and will be your student's book to keep at the end of the year. <b>Please send in \$15.00 (cash or check including phone number) to Mrs. Hosford for this semester only.</b> Additional collection will be made at the beginning of the second semester for consumables if necessary. Thank you!</p>
	<b>WEBSITE</b>	<p>A list of <b>daily activities</b> and <b>homework</b> is available at my website</p> <p><a href="http://mrshosfordscience.weebly.com">http://mrshosfordscience.weebly.com</a></p>
<b>BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS</b>	<p>All Swift Creek Middle School teachers expect students to adhere to the Leon County Schools Attendance Policy and Student Code of Conduct, which includes the dress code, and expectations of academic integrity such as cheating and plagiarism. These policies can be found on the Leon County Schools website at <a href="http://www.leon.k12.fl.us">www.leon.k12.fl.us</a>, the school website at <a href="http://www.swiftcreek.leon.k12.fl.us">www.swiftcreek.leon.k12.fl.us</a>, and in the agenda book distributed to each student.</p> <p><b>Specific Teacher Expectations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work to solve problems constructively, without violence or abuse</li> <li>○ Keep hands, feet, and objects to self</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Begin Bell work as soon as the bell rings</li> <li>• Follow instructions the first time given</li> <li>• Participate positively in class</li> <li>• Stay on task</li> <li>• Do your best work</li> </ul> <p>In this class, students will keep a discipline log, which tracks behavioral issues. After initial warnings, students will enter their 1st offense in the log as an official warning. Their 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction will result in calling home and/or loss of Howl Out, and their 3<sup>rd</sup> (and any subsequent infractions) will result in lunch detention. Serious offenses may result in immediate behavior referrals to the Dean of Students.</p>	
<b>GRADING POLICY</b>	<p><b>Student grades in this course will be weighted by category as follows:</b></p> <p><b>70% – Formal Assessments</b> (Tests, Quizzes, Standard-Checks)</p> <p><b>15% – Investigations</b> (Lab Reports, Arguments, Lab Assignments, Group Projects)</p> <p><b>15% – Classwork</b> (Daily Assignments, Bell work, Notebook checks)</p>	
<b>GRADING SCALE</b>	<p><b>In accordance with Leon County School Board policy, 9-wk grades will be assigned as follows:</b></p>	

	LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL GRADE	MEANING OF GRADE
	A	90-100	<i>The student displays mastery of course content.</i>
	B	80-89	<i>The student has a good understanding of course content. There is room for student improvement.</i>
	C	70-79	<i>The student is successful with most assignments. Gaps may exist in the understanding of difficult topics. Tutorials and/or attention to good study habits may be necessary.</i>
	D	60-69	<i>The student is having difficulty with course content; assistance is necessary for student improvement.</i>
	F	0-59	<i>The student has major difficulty with course content. Immediate intervention is necessary.</i>
<b>HOMEWORK</b>	Homework will be assigned when necessary to enhance student learning. Although I attempt to give out as little homework as possible, students are expected to devote some time to studying the material each week. This is a high school course that requires the student to study in order to be successful.		
<b>MAKE-UP WORK PROCEDURES</b>	<p>Leon County School Board Policy allows students to make up work within a reasonable amount of time after returning to school following an excused absence. The allotted time will be determined by district policy and communicated by the teacher to both parent(s) and the student.</p> <p>Students will have access to the make –up work folder in class. Students who are sick will have the number of days they are out to complete their assignments. For example, a student who is out Wednesday will have until Friday to turn in work due Thursday. This does not apply to homework due the day of the absence. I will make an effort to accommodate students with pre-approved absences; due dates will be on a case-by-case basis.</p>		
<b>LATE WORK POLICY</b>	Late work will be accepted with a penalty of 10 percent for each late day, up to 3 days. After 3 days, the assignment is half credit and must be turned in before the unit test or the student will not receive credit.		
<b>ASSIGNMENT RE-DO POLICY &amp; PROCEDURES</b>	Students are given an opportunity to re-take tests if they score less than a 70% to earn a passing score of 70%. Students will also have an opportunity to revise the final draft of their lab reports during any investigation. Their grade will reflect the highest score achieved.		
<b>EXTRA HELP OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Students who wish to receive extra help may <b>schedule</b> a time to come in before school (except on days I am scheduled for a parent conference or morning duty). Students may also email questions, though I may not have the opportunity to answer until the following morning.		

### **HIGH SCHOOL COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

- Grades earned in high school credit courses start the student's high school transcript. The grades earned in these courses will not only affect their high school GPA but can affect college applications, graduation rank, and NCAA/NAIA status.
- If after the 1<sup>st</sup> 9-weeks grading period the grade earned is less than a "B" the student will meet with the Assistant Principal of Curriculum, Mr. Wetherington to discuss being removed from the high school level course.

Students enrolling into a high school credit course of the next level of progression will not be permitted to take a course at the lower level once they have completed the higher leveled course. For example, a student who has taken Algebra 1 cannot take Pre-Algebra, or a lower level course the following academic year. The student must move on to Geometry

Leon County Schools Non-Discrimination Statement

"The Leon County School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex (including transgender status, gender nonconforming, and gender identity), marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status, or genetic information."

LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Equity Office

Dr. Kathleen Rodgers (850) 487-7306

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