

***Reaching Excellence and Climbing Higher***

**Science Department**

**Fall Semester 2019**

# **Honors Biology – Mrs. Kristie Wright**

**School Website:** [www.lassiterhigh.org](http://www.lassiterhigh.org)

**Course Website:** <https://kristiewright3.wixsite.com/biology>

**Email:** Kristie.wright@cobbk12.org

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The Biology Georgia Standards of Excellence are designed to continue the student investigations of the life sciences and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology by focusing on the identification of patterns, processes, and relationships of living organisms. During first semester, students will study the nature of science, biochemistry, cellular processes and genetics. It is important for students to be in class everyday as attendance is essential for success. Topics will be explored through inquiry, discussion, laboratory activities, and research into real-world applications.

**GRADING POLICY:** The Lassiter Biology department utilizes Standards Based Grading. This grading method allows students to better visualize in which standards they are excelling and which standards will need to be further reviewed prior to the End of Course (EOC) Milestones Assessment.

 Understanding Biological Investigations 5%

 Examining the Importance of Chemistry 15%

 Analyzing the Structures and Functions of Living Cells 15%

 Modeling Cellular Reproduction 15%

 Explaining the Role of DNA 15%

 Predicting Patterns of Inheritance 20%

 Cumulative Final Exam …………………………………………………………...15%



***Course Website:*** *Please take the time to become familiar with the course website as soon as possible (QR code seen to the right, link above or through the LHS website). Here you will find upcoming assignments and assessments, due dates, electronic documents of all activities, video lectures, study guides, answer keys, and more. The website is updated with the week’s schedule every Monday.*  ***Password is wright***

**Tests:** Major tests will be given every 2-4 weeks. Test days are typically on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. It is the **responsibility of the student** to schedule a make-up exam with the teacher. Tests will be worth between 100-200 points. Tests falling under larger standards (see above) will have a more significant impact on a student’s overall numerical average.

**Labs:** Each student will be expected to work with a partner (or partners) and participate in lab activities. Labs will be done in class and all safety rules must be followed. Failure to do so will result in lack of participation for the lab and a grade of zero will be assigned. If a lab activity is missed for any reason, it is the **responsibility of the student** to schedule a make-up lab immediately upon your return to school. Labs are a critical component of the Honors Biology course and are typically worth between 15 – 40 points.

**Daily Work:** Daily work will incorporate homework, quizzes, checks for understanding, and class activities. *Late homework/daily work assignments WILL NOT be accepted in this course*. This is to better prepare you for future courses at Lassiter and even beyond high school. Daily work will range from 5 – 25 points, depending on the assignment.

**Projects:** Special projects, both ***major*** and ***minor***, will be assigned throughout the semester. Some projects will be individual assignments and some will be group work. Major projects will hold the same assessment value as a comprehensive unit exam. Minor projects will be worth approximately the same as a unit laboratory assignment. *Late projects WILL NOT be accepted in this course.*

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be given at the end of the fall semester and will be comprehensive.

**Text:** A CLASS SET of textbooks will be available for use in the classroom. All students enrolled in the course will have access to the ONLINE textbook using their school login credentials. Login information can be found on the class website.

 **Materials Needed**:

* A composition notebook (no spirals!)
* Internet access (see Media Center hours below)
* Loose leaf college rule paper
* Binder Notebook
* Black or blue-black ink pen **and** pencils with erasers
* 1 package Colored Pencils
* Colored Highlighters ***(optional, but encouraged)***

**Attendance and Make-Up Policy:** A student who is present and actively participates is more likely to be successful; however, if a student is absent, he/she has one day for each day of **excused** absence to make up the work. (For example, a student absent 2 days would have 2 days to make-up the work.) Students are responsible for asking their teachers for the make-up work. A student with an **unexcused** absence may ask for assignments and may choose to complete them in order to keep up with the class; however, the teacher is under no obligation to grade the work. Students should *always check the blog* the day they are absent. **If you are absent on the day prior to the test (also known as the “review day”) you will be required to take the test on the regularly scheduled day.**

**Late Work Policy:** In preparation for more rigorous high school and college courses, *late homework, assignments and projects will* ***NOT*** *be accepted in this class*. Due dates are made clear when assignments are given and can be found on the blog at any time. A majority of assignments are due at the end of the class period. Assignments that need to be completed at home are due at the beginning of the period on the assigned due date unless specifically stated otherwise.

**Tardy Policy:** To avoid being counted tardy, students must be **seated and ready for class** when the bell rings. You will be required to obtain a tardy pass through the PPO office to enter the room if you arrive to school after the 1st period bell in order to check in for the day. Students will be referred to an administrator after THREE unexcused class tardies. See handbook for the appropriate consequences, which may include administrative detention, Saturday school, ISS and loss of parking privileges.

**Extra Help:** Anyone needing extra help, needing to make-up a test/quiz, or needing to make up a lab is encouraged to visit
Mrs. Wright **before school from 7:45-8:15 or during ASE by appointment.** You may come any morning or ASE for extra help, but it must be scheduled ahead of time. If a lab or test make-up appointment is missed twice and unexcused, a grade of “zero” will be given on the assignment. Extra help for anyone in Honors Biology is also offered **once a week before school (7:45 – 8:15am).** See schedule posted outside of the classroom.

**Blended Classroom Description:** Honors Biology will utilize the blended classroom throughout the semester. The blended classroom is a pedagogical model in which students will learn by electronic and online materials, in additional to face to face. Short video lectures are viewed by the students at home prior to the class session, while in-class time is devoted to exercises, projects, and discussions. By blending the Honors Biology course, we are better able to encourage active learning, student engagement, and knowledge application. Review of the course unit information is extremely critical to the blended approach; students will therefore need to be proactive regarding review on their own time, whether it is through internet access at home or at school.
***Media center hours are 7:00 am – 5:00pm Monday through Thursday and 7:00am – 3:30pm on Fridays.***

**Academic Integrity:** *Cheating is considered a serious matter. The parents of a student who has been involved in cheating will be notified and the student will receive a grade of zero for the test or evaluation period, and a grade of U in conduct.*

For the Lassiter Science Department, cheating is defined as, but *is not limited to*, the following acts:

* Copying anyone’s answers to questions, lab activities, study guides, classwork or homework assignments (this also applies to
other teachers reporting copying being done in their classrooms on similar assignments).
* Looking onto another student’s paper or any resources during a test or quiz.
* Having available any study notes or other test aids during a test or quiz without the teacher's permission.
* Collaborating on assignments when independent work is expected. ***Be certain that individual lab reports, even when performed as a group, are written in your own words.***
* Taking any information verbatim from any source, including the Internet, without giving proper credit to the author, or rearranging the order of words and/or changing some words as written by the author and claiming the work as his or her own, i.e., plagiarism.
* Using external resources such as web sites or apps to complete an assignment or assessment unless specifically permitted by the teacher.
* Taking pictures of assignments or assessments without the consent of the teacher.
* Students displaying or using cell phones or any other technology devices during tests and/or quizzes will be referred to administration, and will be given a zero for that test or quiz with NO opportunity to make up those points.

**Student/Parental Homework – Your 1st Assignment! ☺**

I will be using an anonymous reminder website as a classroom tool (called **Remind!**). This app allows me to send text messages to students and parents about upcoming assignments, quizzes, or tests. It also allows me to notify students of any changes that might occur before the next day’s class. This is an ***anonymous system***, so I do not have access to you or your child’s cell phone number and vice versa. Students will enroll through this program during class, but I would like for parents/guardians to subscribe via text as well! To do so, please follow these instructions…

To receive messages via text, text **@kwrightbio** to **81010**. You can opt-out of messages at any time by replying, ‘unsubscribe@kwrightbio’.

Trouble using 81010? Try texting @kwrightbio to (657) 208 – 9068 instead.

You will receive a message asking for your name. Please respond with your ***first and last name only*** (text messaging rates apply).

**Technology in the Classroom**

I encourage all students to bring their smart devices to Biology with the understanding that they are ***to be used only during the appropriate times***. Smart phones, tablets, etc will be used in class for viewing notes, researching information, formative assessments, class reviews, etc. While such technology allows us to enrich lessons, all students will be asked to place their devices in the designated area at the front of the classroom at the beginning of every class. This limits distractions and encourages students to engage in active learning. Due to this policy, *any cell phone violation will be an automatic administrative write-up*.

I will be “flipping” the classroom throughout this fall semester. This means I will be recording my lecture videos and your student will be watching them at home. By recording my lectures, students will have greater control over how they review. They can pause, take notes, or repeat/review any portion of the lecture at any time.

These lecture videos will be posted to the blog so it is imperative that both parents and students check this consistently throughout the semester. I typically post the week’s schedule every Monday and then edit it as things change throughout the week.

[**https://kristiewright3.wixsite.com/biology**](https://kristiewright3.wixsite.com/biology)

 I can be reached most easily via email. Please feel free to contact me at ANY time with any questions or concerns you may have.

Kristie.wright@cobbk12.org

Please note, I do not always check my email after I leave school in the afternoon.
Please take this into consideration if you are emailing with an urgent matter.

**Thursday, August 22 – Fall Semester Open House**

*All parents/guardians are invited to walk through their students’ academic schedule.*

 *I look forward to seeing you at that time!*



**ELECTRONIC
SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1afVEc1grUciSnFcLMeQ9OsibnTRrR8KfZS66CpALNgA/edit>

**Due by Monday, August 5**

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**What materials are *required* in Mrs. Wright’s Honors Biology?**

Composition Notebook (no spirals!)

Pen AND Pencil

College Rule Paper

Science Notebook OR a section in a larger notebook

**How can I help make this a great year in
Mrs. Wright’s Honors Biology class?
Below is a list of donated items we *always* *appreciate*…**

COLORED PRINTER PAPER(any pastel color)

PAPER TOWELS

Tissues

Dry Erase Markers

Disinfecting Wipes

Colored Pencils

Sharpies

Hand Sanitizer

Colored Post It Notes

Glue sticks