Welcome to Biology Honors! At the end of this year, you will be taking a state designed end of course exam to earn your biology credit. In order to succeed on this test, we will have to work together. As your teacher my responsibility will be to introduce the standards, design lessons around the standards to aid in your learning, use formatives to determine your understanding of the standard and then evaluating, with the help of summative, your retention of the standards. Your responsibility, as the student, will be to come to class prepared with your notebook and writing utensils, keep an open, curious mind, ask clarifying questions, review the material nightly and give a 100% effort! I anticipate a successful year if we both fulfill our responsibilities!

Scope of the class

During this year we will cover: Scientific investigation process; Properties of water and macromolecules; Cells and their structures as well as numerous cell processes such as Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration, Protein synthesis, and Cell Division; Genetics and Biotechnology; Natural Selection; Classification of organisms; Nervous, Immune, and Reproductive systems of the Human Body. We will use a variety of activities to learn all these concepts. Each week we will complete one lab activity and we will have a lab during each nine weeks in which you design the lab, record the data and analyze the data as well as write up a complete lab report. We also will be participating in the Science Fair and will be working on those projects during selected Early Release Wednesdays.

Weighting of classes

Each assignment will be awarded a certain number of points and will fall into one of three categories: diagnostic, formative or summative. Diagnostics will be weighted 0% and will be used to determine what is already known. Formatives will be weighted 40% of the nine weeks and summatives will be 60% of the nine week grade.

Grading policy

You and your parents will be able to follow your grades by logging on to the Gradebook website. I will up-date grades weekly. I will typically up-date on a weekend so that by the following Monday your grade will reflect what you are currently earning.

Formatives

Formatives will consist of worksheets, hand-outs, video summaries, quizzes and some labs. The majority of the formatives will be embedded in the interactive notebook and will be evaluated by the teacher. Due to students having extended time in handing in assignments, late work WILL NOT be accepted!
**Summatives**

**Notebook**

We will be using an Interactive Notebook in which most of your papers minus summatives will be found on assigned pages. This is an awesome tool to use in studying for your summatives as well as your end of course exam. You are required to bring this notebook each day as well as a writing utensil such as a pencil or a blue or black ink pen. The notebook should be a 3-5 subject notebook or 3-ring binder. These notebooks will be graded 1-4 times during a 9 weeks as a summative grade.

**Labs**

Our class will be sharing a lab room with another science class and so will have a specific day on which we do labs. It is important that you are present in class on that day since lab materials may be time sensitive and may not be available for after school make up sessions. Please encourage parents to make doctor, dentist and/or orthodontist appointments after school. If you do miss a lab, you will have to write a two page report on the concept we studied. **We also have a certain dress code for lab day: no loose clothes, no open toed shoes!** If you come to class on lab day not dressed appropriately, you will be sent to another classroom to sit until we are finished with the lab. You will also receive the alternate assignment of writing a two page report.

One of our lab experiences consist of a field trip to Rose Bay in Port Orange. We will be doing a variety of hands on, in the field studies and experiments. This is a day in which students may use cast nets to identify various fish and/or invertebrates in Rose Bay, may do a bird walk and identify various birds, take a plant hike and identify why plants can exist in the Rose Bay environment. It is one of the highlights of the year. This is a field trip that is mandated by the county. It is our belief that the more the student does hands on, the greater the chance of higher EOC scores. If your parents are interested in being a chaperone, please let me know! If, for some reason, you is unable to go on that day, you will be required to make it up by doing several written lab reports on all of the experiments we conduct that day. This experience is considered a **summative** but **cannot** be re-done.

**Science Dues: You may bring in $5.00 to help supplement the lab supplies we will use this year. Or you may bring in 3-5 paper towel rolls, or 1-2 hand soap (pump dispenser).**

**Tests**

Summative grades will consist of tests, lab reports and projects. Our district has unit tests that they have designed to mirror the style of the End of Course (EOC) exam. These tests will be given at the end of the unit and will be cumulative for that unit. If you earn a 70% or lower, you are encouraged to complete remediation on Canvas. We will go over this remediation after the first DIA. The grades will follow the district grading scale. The re-testing will take place after school to allow for the same amount of time given during the first test and will be scheduled within a week of the actual test date.

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1 Science Dues are not required. Additional donations are welcome. If you are unable to pay the lab fee or bring in the donations, please see the instructor.
Failure to show up for the retake will result in keeping the other test score. If you are absent on the day of the summative, when you return you will take the summative. St

**Projects**

There will be projects completed in our class. One project will be a Science Fair project. Deadlines for topics and procedures will be given in the future. These projects will be considered summatives. Due dates for these projects are strictly adhered to and if a student is absent on the day the project is due, they must make arrangements to get the project to me on due date before the school day ends or prior to the due date.

**Absences**

Since this class is getting students ready to take a state end of course exam that counts for 30% of their final grade, it is very important that the students are here every day. However, absences do happen. It is your responsibility to find out what was missed and how to make it up by asking prior to class starting or before school starts or at lunch time. You will have one day to make up work for every day missed. If you know that you will be out for more than a day, it is suggested that you email me to find out what is being missed and how to make it up. My email is atate@volusia.k12.fl.us.

**Teacher office hours/Tutoring**

I am available for tutoring or answering questions before school from 8:05 -8:25 am and after school from 3:30- 4:30 on most Tuesdays. I will be available during lunch by appointment. These days are the same days that students can make up tests, quizzes and some labs. And I am available by appointments as well. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at atate@volusia.k12.fl.us. I will answer by the end of the day!

**Dress code on lab days**

On lab days the dress code will differ due to lab safety regulations. No open toed shoes, flip flops or sandals will be allowed in the lab. If you wear these items, you may not be allowed to participate in lab. You will do a two page report on the lab topic.

**Cell Phones**

Cell phones are to be turned off and put away upon entering the classroom. They are NOT to be used for a time piece, I have a clock on my wall that is clearly seen by all in my class room. The phones are to not even be on the desk or under the desk but put away in a back pocket, purse or backpack.
Cell phones are not to be out during test times. If it is suspected that a student used a phone on a test, the teacher will follow the school’s academic integrity policy.

Rules for the Classroom

1. Be prompt.
2. Be positive.
3. Be prepared.
4. Be polite.
5. Be productive.

Consequences

Consequences for noncompliance with the above rules

Verbal warning
Seat reassignment
Lunch detention
Phone call home
Referral

Consequences for following above rules:

Rewards and certain privileges

Severe clause: If misbehavior is harming another student, teacher or property, student will be immediately sent to the dean’s office on a referral

I have read the grading scale and assignment of points; absence policy; cell phone, electronic devices policy, dress code policy, rules and consequences for the classroom.

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Student signature and date

___________________________________
Parent signature and date
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Grading policy

You and your parents will be able to follow your grades by logging on to the Focus website through V-Portal. I will update grades weekly. I will typically update on a weekend so that by the following Monday your grade will reflect what you are currently earning.

Formatives

Formatives will consist of worksheets, hand-outs, video summaries, quizzes and some labs. The majority of the formatives will be embedded in the interactive notebook and will be handed in every two weeks.
on a Friday. Due to students having extended time in handing in assignments, late work WILL NOT be accepted!

Summatives

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remediation and take a retest to earn a higher grade. If you do not complete the remediation, you will not be able to retest. The grades will follow the district grading scale. The re-testing will take place after school to allow for the same amount of time given during the first test and will be scheduled within a week of the actual test date. Failure to show up for the retake will result in keeping the other test score. If you are absent on the day of the summative, when you return you will take the summative.

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Rules for the Classroom

7. Be positive.
8. Be prepared.
10. Be productive.

Consequences

Consequences for noncompliance with the above rules

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Seat reassignment
Lunch detention
Phone call home
Referral

Consequences for following above rules:

Rewards and certain privileges

Severe clause: If misbehavior is harming another student, teacher or property, student will be immediately sent to the dean’s office on a referral

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Formatives

Formatives will consist of worksheets, hand-outs, video summaries, quizzes and some labs. These formatives will be embedded into your interactive notebook and will be graded when turned in every
two weeks. Because of this, you have ample time to complete all assignments so late work is NOT ACCEPTED! There may be some formatives that are hand-outs that I collect and then turn back to you, if you miss these formatives you can make them up.

**Summatives**

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**Science Dues: You may bring in $5.00 to help supplement the lab supplies we will use this year. Or you may bring in 3-5 paper towel rolls, or 1-2 hand soap (pump dispenser).**³

**Tests**

Summatives will consist of tests, lab reports and projects. If you do not achieve a 70% or higher on the tests you will be allowed to remediate and then retake the exam for a higher grade. All test-like summatives will be fashioned after the end of course exam and will be multiple choice. The number of test items will vary depending on how many standards were taught. Remediation will be done prior to the retest and will be done either on your own time or at lunch time in Mr. Tate’s class during Tuesday or Thursday. The re-testing will take place after school to allow for the same amount of time given during the first test and will be scheduled within a week of the actual test date. Failure to show up for the retake will result in keeping the other test score. If you are absent on the day of the summative, when you return you will take the summative. The grades will follow the district grading scale.

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Teacher absence

If I am absent, you will have a substitute in the classroom and they will have an assignment or two for you to complete. It is expected complete by the following day when I will collect it. It is for a grade.

Teacher office hours/Tutoring

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