

**11th grade Biology/Environmental Science Honors
with Mr. Nick Ehlers
Semester One: 2015**

What does it mean to take Honors?

Honors is an opportunity for students to engage in more depth the study of Biology/Environmental Science. By choosing to participate in Honors, a student is committing to a rigorous course of study and will take this decision very seriously. I assume that by choosing to participate in Honors, the student will complete all assignments, both Honors and regular course work, on time and to the very best of their ability. In signing the Honors contract, you are committing to the Honors work for the entire semester.

HONORS CANNOT BE DROPPED DURING THE SEMESTER!

If you do not complete the work by the due date, you will receive a **ZERO** on the assignment. Late work is not accepted for Honors assignments. This will affect your letter grade in Biology/Environmental Science. It is your responsibility to pace your reading, participate in activities and volunteer work, and complete your daily log on time.

Please do not wait until the last minute!

What is required for Honors Biology/Environmental Science?

Honors students will have the privilege to work with *I Love A Clean San Diego* (ILACSD, <http://www.cleansd.org/>), and fulfill the following three requirements:

- 1. Attend ALL Honors classes/activities (Wednesdays, 12:35pm-1:30pm) and read/annotate in your journal each article prior to that day's activity (i.e. this will be homework).**

Topic	Date (Wednesdays, 12:35pm-1:30pm)	Activity	Article #	Notes
Watersheds	9/2/2015	Watershed presentation/launch	N/A	
	9/9/2015	Build your own watershed	1	In the field
	9/16/2015	Create own Google Earth watershed tour	2	
	9/23/2015	In class article and discussion	3	No ILACSD
	9/30/2015	Walk the Watershed Program	4	In the field
Pollutants of Concern	10/7/2015	Pollutant research, group presentation to class	5	
	10/14/2015	Water monitoring tests	6	pH, DO, Cu, etc.
	10/21/2015	Albatross bolus dissection	7	
	10/28/2015	Campus cleanup	8	
Vermicomposting	11/4/2015	Composting and Vermicomposting	9	
	11/11/2015	NO MEETING	N/A	Veteran's Day

	11/18/2015	Create vermicomposting bin for classroom	10	
	11/25/2015	NO MEETING	N/A	Thanksgiving
	12/2/2015	Worm exploration and dissection	11	
Zero Waste	12/9/2015	Zero waste 101	12	

2. Attend at least one Volunteer Community Cleanup (http://www.cleansd.org/v_cleanups.php).

*Please note that many of the events require pre-registration, so plan early!

Requirements: you must attend the entire event, take at least one photo of you participating in the event, and write at least a two-page reflection in your journal on who, where, when, how, and WHY (please personalize each – I want to hear your voice and how this event relates to your life!).

3. Identify one lifestyle change you will make throughout the semester that will reduce your waste.

You will identify this change and keep a daily log in your journal of your measurable progress. Check out <http://www.epa.gov/climatestudents/solutions/actions/index.html> for ideas on lifestyle changes.

*****Please complete (with parent(s)/guardian(s)) the Bio/Env Sc Honors Contract on the following page →**

Biology/Environmental Science Honors Contract

Biology has an honors option. Honors is a semester-long commitment, and factors into the final semester grade!!

To earn honors credit for the fall semester you must do the following:

- Read/annotate each article prior to honors class.
- Be present at each honors class and during activities.
- Attend and reflect on at least one Volunteer Community Cleanup.
- Implement and record a lifestyle change that will reduce your own waste.

Honors is meant to be a challenge. *A student enrolled in Honors is expected to do all of the Honors work in addition to regular coursework.* Honors students are expected to work on Honors every week and manage their Honors work wisely (translation: do not procrastinate).

Before you sign up for Honors you should consider the benefits and drawbacks:

Benefits:

- Honors credit adds one full grade point to your final grade for the semester, which raises your overall GPA.
- Colleges like to see Honors credit on your transcript.
- Honors provides a fun biology/environmental science challenge for you.

Drawbacks:

- Honors is a lot of work and may add too much to your workload; this can be overwhelming.
- Honors will take away time you may want to commit to other extracurricular activities, which colleges like to see as well.
- Honors assignments are graded and not doing them, and not doing them well, will negatively impact your grade.
- Honors is very rigorous material, so if you are already struggling with biology/environmental science, you may find that it is too challenging or that it takes away from time you could spend on regular biology/environmental science assignments.

Please discuss your personalized schedule and the benefits and drawbacks of Honors with your parent/guardian, and decide if Honors is the right choice for you. You must make a permanent decision about Honors by Tuesday, September 8, 2015. After that date, you may not add or drop Honors for any reason.

I, _____, have read the above information, and **I wish to earn Honors credit in Biology.**

I understand that this is a permanent decision and cannot be changed after September 8, 2015.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Contact Info (email/phone): _____