

11th grade Biology/Environmental Science Honors

with Mr. Nick Ehlers

Semester One: 2016

What does it mean to take Honors?

In my mind, Honors is a challenge that builds and deepens current project/class work understanding. I have rearranged our normal classroom schedule to incorporate honors and ensure that all students have the time to be a part of honors. With that said, congratulations you are already signed up for honors! In other words, the expectation in my class is that you will participate, commit, and challenge yourself to complete all assignments (both Honors and regular course work) on time and to the very best of your ability. By filling out our Biology/Environmental Science Honors contract (see last page), you are committing to the Honors work for the entire semester. If you choose to opt-out of Honors, please check the opt-out box and provide a brief explanation. All contracts are due by Thursday, September 15th.

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/research, participate in project work time, incorporate feedback into your final product(s), and complete your assignments 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 on Human/Animal Roadkill Anatomy projects and fulfill the following three requirements:

1. Create an interactive human and animal anatomy display.

Requirements for each category incorporate student input from our Honors Project Charette (9/6/16).

Products:

- Groups of four need to produce a human and animal (local roadkill or stranded animal) anatomy model. Each group member must create at least six of the body's major organ systems, three for the human (e.g. circulatory, digestive, and endocrine) and three for the animal (e.g. excretory, immune, and integumentary).
- All product components have to be original (e.g. pictures, photos, labels, diagrams, drawings, etc.).
- Example products: spinning anatomy rack, anatomy puzzle(s), digital or physical transparencies, interactive anatomy programming, stop motion... If you have other ideas please consult with your group and then Mr. Nick.
- (Optional) Incorporate forensics (leave clues of death, instead of telling) in order to engage your audience.

Assessment:

- Each human and animal product will be used to test another group's knowledge of comparative anatomy. For example, if one student group constructs anatomy puzzles and the other creates a spinning anatomy rack, then these groups will switch (with labels covered) and "take each other's test".

Access and Challenge:

- Group roles (each group member is in charge of different major organ systems)
- Reading assignments (in normal bio class)
- Challenge options (e.g. incorporate more interactive components to engage your audience – forensic investigation...)
- Labs (in normal bio class)
- Exam (see assessment and potentially in normal bio class)

Scaffolding for Quality:

- Routine quality control (eight sets of eyes!)
- Include COLOR (is required)
- Multiple drafts (incorporating 'eight sets of eyes!' feedback, which leads to refinement)

2. Attend ALL Honors classes (Tuesdays).

Date (Tuesdays)	Activity	Notes
9/6/16	Honors Project Charette	We will work together to brainstorm honors!
9/13/16	Project product and design	Due: 9/20/16
9/20/16	Project work time	
9/27/16	Project work time And Eight sets of eyes!	Each group will find eight honors students to review your project progress (each person fills out a critique sheet). Due: 10/4/16
10/4/16	Project work time	
10/11/16	Project work time And Eight sets of eyes!	Each group will find eight adults to review your project progress (each person fills out a critique sheet). Due: 10/18/16
10/18/16	Project work time	
10/25/16	Project work time And Eight sets of eyes!	Each group will find eight honors students to review your project progress (each person fills out a critique sheet). Due: 11/1/16
11/1/16	Project work time	
11/8/16	Project work time And Eight sets of eyes!	Each group will find eight adults to review your project progress (each person fills out a critique sheet). Due: 11/15/16
11/15/16	Project work time	
11/22/16	No Honors	Thanksgiving Holiday and Mr. Nick's Birthday!
11/29/16	Final product review	
12/6/16	Assessment	Groups switch products and test each other
12/13/16	No Honors	DOLs (Discussion Of Learning)

3. After participating in the Be Proud Be Responsible program, please construct a personal reproductive health plan that answers the following question:

What are specific decisions that you can make now that can keep you feeling Proud and Responsible of your Reproductive Health in high school, college, and life beyond school?

***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:

- Attend all honors classes (Tuesdays)
- Complete an interactive human and animal anatomy display, and
- Construct a personal reproductive health plan.

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 stay in or opt out of 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.

(Check this box if you would like to opt out of Biology/Environmental Science Honors)

After reviewing the expectations and benefits/drawbacks of honors, I have decided to opt out of honors because:

Please discuss 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 Thursday, September 15, 2016. 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 15, 2016.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Contact Info (email/phone): _____