

Biology Honors 9th Grade Syllabus

2016-2017

Ms. Szwarc



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to Honors Biology! I am Amanda Szwarc, and I am excited to be your child's teacher. I have taught in a few different settings, including informal environmental education and in college-level laboratories. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Secondary Education and a Master's degree in Environmental Studies, both earned from the College of Charleston. My goal is to give your child a hands-on science learning experience.

Course Content:

- 1-Cells
- 2-Energy
- 3-Genetics
- 4-Heredity
- 5-Evolution
- 6-Ecology

To best gain mastery of these concepts, students will engage in a variety of hands-on labs and will complete group and independent projects.

Classroom Expectations:

To provide your child with the best learning experience possible, it will be important for them to follow class procedures and rules.

I have **one main rule** in my classroom: Respect. Respect the teacher, respect your classmates, respect yourself, and respect the classroom. By doing all of these things, it will be possible to create a safe learning environment for students.

Hierarchy of consequences:

- *Redirect
- *Warning
- *Lunch Detention
- *Call Home
- *Send Out to Guidance
- *Referral to Administration

Rewards for good behavior:

- Homework Late Pass
- Positive Phone Call Home

- Positive Note Home
- Class outdoors

Materials (bring daily):

- Spiral Notebook for Science only
- Writing utensils
- CHARGED Macbook

Grading Policy

Tests and Projects	30%
Quizzes	25%
Labs	25%
Classwork and Discussion	20%

Late Work

Students must turn in assignments the day they are due or they will be recorded as a zero in the gradebook. Students who have missed work due to absence will have 5 days to make up work. It is the student's responsibility to schedule a makeup test or quiz. It is the student's responsibility to pick up any work they have missed.

Contact

email: aszwarc@allegrocharterschool.org
website: msszwarcscience.weebly.com

LAB SAFETY CONTRACT

Science classes involve a hands-on laboratory component. To ensure a safe place to learn, students are required to follow the safety rules listed below.

Conduct in the Laboratory

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory or workshop. Horseplay and pranks are dangerous and prohibited. Do not wander around the room, distract other students or interfere with the work of others
2. Carefully follow all instructions. If you do not understand a direction or a part of a procedure, ask the instructor before proceeding.
3. Unauthorized experiments or use of materials is prohibited. Perform only those activities authorized by the instructor.
4. Students may not work in the laboratory or workshop without an instructor present.
5. Students are not permitted in storage rooms or in preparation areas unless accompanied by an instructor.
6. Eating, drinking or chewing gum during a laboratory or workshop activity is prohibited.
7. All chemicals in the laboratory are to be considered dangerous. Do not touch, taste, or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so. Keep hands away from the face, eyes, mouth and body while using chemicals or preserved specimens.

8. Preserved biological materials are to be treated with respect and disposed of properly according to instructor directions.

Clothing

1. Lab aprons and safety goggles are provided to protect you from possible injury. They should be worn during activities where tools are used or where potentially dangerous substances might get into your eyes or on your clothing.
2. Dress properly during a laboratory activity. Long hair must be tied back and dangling jewelry and loose or baggy clothing must be secured. Open-toed footwear is not recommended.
3. Clean up all lab tools, materials, and surfaces as instructed by your teacher. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
4. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing laboratory or workshop activities.

In Case of Accident

1. Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.), injury (cut, burn, etc.), or unsafe condition to the instructor immediately, no matter how trivial it may appear. Students should not handle broken glass.
2. Know the locations and operating procedures of all safety equipment including the eyewash station, safety shower, fire extinguisher, and fire blanket. Know where the emergency exits are located.

I have reviewed and understand these documents and agree to follow them:

Please tear off and return

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Student Name: _____