COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for students who have excellent reading, comprehension, and study skills. The pace of the course is rapid, and the class covers material in greater depth than Biology. This is a lab-oriented class. Major topics include: biochemistry, cellular biology, molecular and Mendelian genetics, biodiversity, and ecology.

GRADING:

Course Grades: Course grades will not be based upon a total accumulation of points. Instead, student grades will be determined based on the following weighted categories:

- **Outcome Exams** 25%
- **Quizzes** (Several per Outcome Exam) 15%
- **Assignments** (Class Work, Laboratory Activities and Reports, Projects) 40%
- **Final Exam** (End Of Each Semester) 20%

Grading Scale: A=100 – 90; B=89 – 80; C=79 – 70; D=69 – 60; F=59 and below

**Homework**: Homework is an important part of this class. Some of the concepts are difficult and require various amounts of practice to master. Homework may be assigned 2-5 times per week and it is generally expected to be completed by the following class period. Homework may include reading assignments or non-graded work which will be assessed though quizzes or performance assessments several times a week. It is important to complete the homework so that you can master the material.

**Assessments**: You can expect several quizzes per outcome or unit. Additionally, there will be an exam at the end of each outcome or unit. If you have completed the homework and successfully mastered the material you will probably do well on these assessments. Honors Biology students will be allowed to retake one quiz and one unit exam per semester and must be retaken within 3 days of receiving the initial grade. Mr. Fortino must be notified that you wish to retake an assessment NO LATER THAN THE NEXT SCHOOL DAY AFTER RECEIVING THE GRADE ON THE ASSESSMENT.

**ABSENCE POLICY:**

Students who have a pre-excused absence (field trips/vacations) are allowed to make up work missed during the absence. When assignments are provided by the teacher before the student leaves, the student is required to turn in the assignments upon return to each class.

For an excused illness absence, the student is entirely responsible for requesting the make-up work from the teacher(s). Tests/quizzes will be scheduled at an agreed upon time. Students will be given one school day for each day of excused absence to make up assignments and tests. Additional considerations will be given for students with extended illnesses.

In the matter of disciplinary absences, for the first offense resulting in a suspension longer than 3 days, the Attendance Office will collect and provide homework assignments to the student. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Main Attendance Office and make arrangements to pick up the homework assignments. For subsequent, external suspensions, it is the responsibility of the student or parent to contact the teacher to obtain homework assignments. It is the suspended student’s responsibility to make up missed work or tests. Work is due on the date of return to school.
CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

- **Respect** others, your school, and yourself.
- You need to be in your seat and ready to work when the tone sounds. **Failure to do so will result in being marked tardy.** In the event that you are tardy, you will be sent down to student services to obtain a PLASCO slip. You will then have 3 minutes to return to class.
- Keep hall passes to a minimum. You can’t learn if you’re not in the room.
- Students will be responsible for retrieving their own graded papers. Each student is assigned a mailbox at the beginning of the year which they should check daily for graded papers and/or handouts.
- Refer to your student handbook for all other rules and regulations.
- Bring your required materials every day.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: I believe in students choosing the method that works BEST for them. Please ask if you wish to use a non-listed method. The following materials must be brought to class EVERY DAY.

- Non-negotiable: **Pen (Black or blue ink and Pencil)** Optional note-taking aids: highlighters, colored pens, post its, etc. students are encouraged to try many methods.
- Note-taking/labs/vocabulary: **multi-subject notebook** or multiple **single subject notebooks** (college ruled), or **binder with tabs**, loose leaf paper, and a notebook inside (recommended)
- A means of organizing Biology papers and handouts: **Folder** with pockets or **accordion folder** or **binder with tabs**

TEXT BOOK: There will be several reading assignments given per week and students are expected to complete these assignments prior to the next class. The Honors Biology text book can be accessed at: [www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com)

- **User Name:** PEHSHonorsBio21
- **Password:** bengal21

A hard copy of the text book can be checked out to students upon request. This book becomes the responsibility of the student and will receive a receipt that must be turned in at the end of the year.

LAB SAFETY:
This is a primary concern in this class. You need to read the Flinn Safety Contract carefully, have it signed by yourself and a parent/guardian, and return it to me. There will be a Lab safety quiz, or multiple quizzes on the information in this contract.

COMMUNICATION:
Teacher-Student communication is important. You need to tell the teacher the **moment** you feel you need additional assistance. Mr. Fortino can be contacted via email at dfortin1@psd202.org or you can schedule time to meet with him after school. Please notify Mr. Fortino at least one school day in advance to schedule a meeting time. Your teachers are here to help you, but you have to let us know that you need assistance.