

# Honors Biology COURSE SYLLABUS

Staff : Ms. Casiello and Ms. Shreffler  
Emails: [casielloc@cm201u.org](mailto:casielloc@cm201u.org) [shrefflerk@cm201u.org](mailto:shrefflerk@cm201u.org)  
Phones: 708-367-2437 708-367-2435

## Course Description

At Crete-Monee Middle School we focus on an inquiry-based science approach that addresses Next Generation Science Standards while delivering a rigorous curriculum that meets I.B. criteria. This class is an Honors level, dual credit course that allows students to earn a science credit at Crete-Monee High School and our middle school simultaneously.

Our goal is to develop students' critical thinking skills through a myriad of science investigations, grasp tasks, assessments, and research opportunities. Students will be able to reflect upon their challenging body of scientific work to make real life connections to three specific units of content. The Eighth grade Honors Biology units of content are the following: 1. Chemistry (How is life organized? What chemical processes support life? What factors affect human health?) 2. Genetics (How do characteristics pass from one generation to another? How have different forms of life arisen? How do organisms adapt to survive?) and 3. Ecology (How do species interact? How do the choices people make affect the environment? How does biotechnology create new options in industry and health?)

## IB Middle Years Programme Objectives & Strands

### IB Science

<b>A. Knowing and Understanding</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe scientific knowledge</li><li>2. Apply scientific knowledge and understanding to solve problems set in familiar and unfamiliar situations.</li><li>3. Analyze information to make scientifically supported judgments</li></ol>
<b>B. Inquiring and designing</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe a problem or question to be tested by a scientific investigation</li><li>2. Outline a testable hypothesis and explain it using scientific reasoning</li><li>3. Describe how to manipulate the variables, and describe how data will be collected</li><li>4. Design scientific investigations</li></ol>
<b>C. Processing and evaluating</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Present collected and transformed data</li><li>2. Interpret data and describe results using scientific reasoning</li><li>3. Discuss the validity of a hypothesis based on the outcome of the scientific investigation</li><li>4. Discuss the validity of the method</li><li>5. Describe improvements or extensions to the method</li></ol>
<b>D. Reflecting on the impacts of science</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe the ways in which science is applied and used to address a specific problem or issue</li><li>2. Discuss and analyze the various implications of using science and its application in solving a specific problem or issue</li><li>3. Apply scientific language effectively</li><li>4. Document the work of others and sources of information used</li></ol>

## **Total Point Grading**

Honors Biology is graded using total points. Point values are assigned based on time and knowledge required to complete the assignment. Smaller/less complex assignments and assessments are worth less than larger/more complex assignments and assessments.

## **Grading Scale**

100% -90%	A
89% - 80%	B
79% - 70%	C
69%-60%	D
59% and below	F

## **Family Access/Student Access:**

- Grades are updated in Skyward every Friday. Parents should check online grades regularly through Family Access. If you do not have your login credentials for Family Access please contact our Technology Department at 708-367-2930.
- Students will be trained to review their own grades and academic progress through Student Access.

## **Class Supplies Needed:**

- Chromebook--Charged @ home daily.
- Planner
- Writing Utensil

## **Late/Absence Work Policy:**

- Late work will have 10% deducted for every day it is late, up to 50% off for one week past due.
- Students who are absent will have one day for every day absent plus an extra day to complete the missed work.

*All students are expected to adhere to the CMMS Academic Honesty Policy. Our Academic Honesty policy was sent home during the first week of school.*

*If you have questions about content and or grades, please contact your child's teacher.*