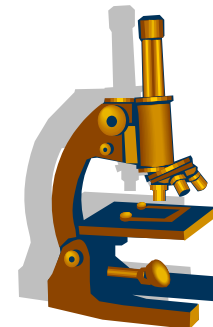


# Ms. Horton's Biology Class Newsletter

## Room 8



### Welcome!

Students, Parents and Guardians,

As a former salmon biologist, I'm very excited about extending my knowledge of biology into the high school classroom.

Lincoln High School's Biology is a college preparatory class. This course uses inquiry activities, labs, discussions, readings and writing to help students reason through and make sense of important Biology ideas. These concepts are aligned with the Next Generation

Science Standards and Common Core.

Because this class utilizes several hands-on activities and collaborative work, attendance is vital to obtaining a deeper understanding of the course material as well as a passing grade.

Please keep this newsletter and the following syllabus for future reference; both contain important information that will be helpful throughout the year. I'm looking forward to our great adventures in Biology.

### This Newsletter & Syllabus contain helpful, important information

I request that students, parents, guardians thoroughly read the syllabus and sign the contract form stating that you understand the structure, rules and procedures of the class.

Course Materials  
Grading Policy  
Class Rules and Procedures

Parent Contact Information  
Biology Tutorial/ Teacher Office Hours  
Guide for Student Success

#### Course materials

1½ inch, 3-ring binder  
6 dividers with tabs  
*Biology* Textbook  
Lined notebook paper  
Pen **and** Pencil

#### Subject Headings for Divider Tabs

Resources  
Evaluations  
Purple: Trait Change Over Time  
Red: Matter, Energy and Survival  
Blue: DNA to Traits,  
Reproduction and Inheritance  
Green: Population Dynamics

#### Biology Tutorial/Teacher's Office Hours

-7:30 to 7:50AM, Mon-Fri  
-and by appointment

#### Contact Information

**Phone:** (916) 645-6360 ex. 208

**Email:** JHorton@wpusd.k12.ca.us

**LHS Website:** <http://lhs.wpusd.k12.ca.us/>

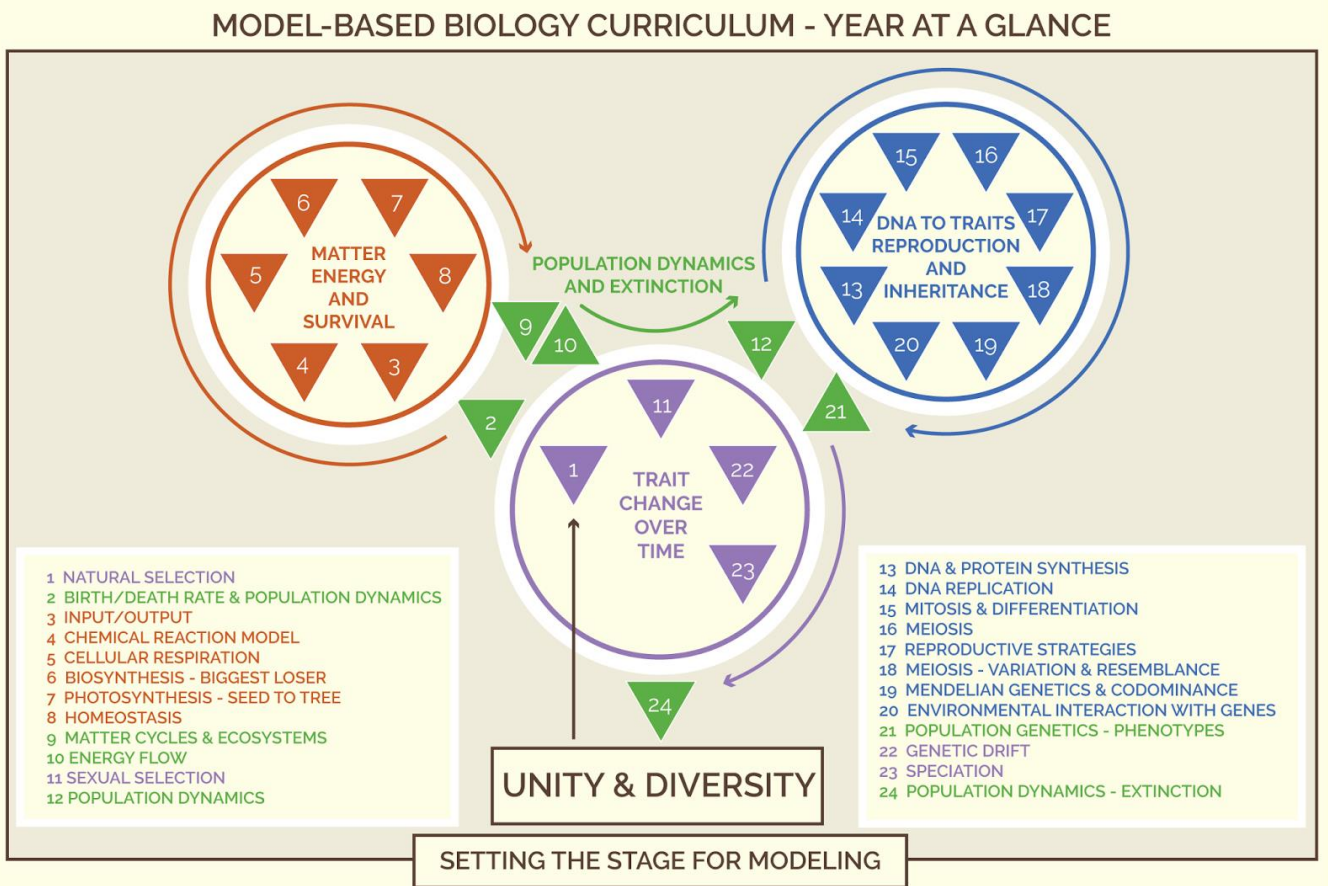
**Aeries Portal:** Located on LHS website

**Schoology Course Website:** <https://www.schoology.com/home.php>

# Biology

## Course Syllabus

### Course Outline



We will begin the year with “Setting the Stage for Modeling.” A scientific model is a set of ideas that help us make sense of natural phenomenon. Scientists ask questions and build scientific models (sets of ideas) to help make sense of the world around us. In this class we will work much like the scientists do. This will require observing phenomena, asking questions, individual thinking, group discussions, collaborative work, critical thinking and problem solving. This type of classroom culture may be new to many students, so we will spend some time practicing these skills and getting to know each other. Next we will explore the unity and diversity of life on our planet and then dive deeper into each of the 4 main topics: (Trait Change Over Time), (Matter, Energy, and Survival), (DNA to Traits, Reproduction and Inheritance), and (Population Dynamics). These main topics appear as loops and not the traditional units because in biology every concept is tied back to another concept. Throughout the year we will continue to build on our previous knowledge as we make sense of the unity and diversity of life on our planet.

## Grading

### **Class work and Homework:**

Including but not limited to daily participation, handouts, practice work at home, and responses to readings. If you are not present you cannot earn your daily participation points.

### **Labs and Activities:**

Written responses to labs and activities including data collection, analysis, and conclusions, and formal lab reports

### **Projects:**

Small projects that apply what we are learning in class to the real world.

### **Evaluations:**

Weekly quizzes, driving question explanations, and semester finals.

## Finals

A **Comprehensive Final Exam** will be given during finals week each semester. This exam will include materials from our labs and activities.

This biology class is designed for all types of learners,

### **Grading Scale**

A	92-100%
A-	90-91%
B+	88-89%
B	82-87%
B-	80-81%
C+	78-79%
C	72-77%
C-	70-71%
D+	68-69%
D	62-67%
D-	60-61%
F	59% and below

### **Grades are Weighted**

Class/Homework –	25%
Labs/Activities –	25%
Projects –	25%
Evaluations –	25%

**Failure to complete the final exam, projects or lab reports may result in an incomplete for a final grade.**

## Checking Your Grade

I will update grades on Schoology once a week. It is the students' responsibility to check their grades. If there is a discrepancy please see me right away and we will sort out the problem. Students must keep all their returned papers.

If an assignment is not turned in on time, for any reason, I will assign a "0" until received.

### Late Work

I will accept late work for a reduction of points: 20% off the graded score for one calendar day late, 40% off on the second calendar day late and so on. This includes quizzes, exams and labs that must be made up from absences. I will not grade work after the 4<sup>th</sup> late day.

\*If you are **ABSENT**, it is **your responsibility** to make up the work (including but not limited to, lecture notes, activities, quizzes, participation and labs) you missed.

You have as many days as your absence, to make up your work for full credit, afterwards the late policy applies.

\*Please check the day you were absent on the calendar on the **Schoology class website**. If you need specific handouts or clarification on specific concepts I will be more than happy to comply with those requests.

## **Class Rules**

Be Respectful

Be Prepared to Learn

Remember, No Food, Drinks, Headgear, or Electronic Devices during class time  
(Water is OK)

## **Class Procedures**

Students will be in their seats with appropriate materials when the bell rings.  
When you are late to class you lose participation points.

Be Safe: Follow all safety rules

Be Responsible: Follow the teacher's directions.

Be Respectful: The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.

### **Student Handbook**

I follow and uphold the Lincoln High School Tardy policy, Cell phone policy, and Dress Code along with all the rules and procedures stated in the Lincoln High School Student Handbook. It is the student's responsibility to understand the Lincoln High School rules and procedures.

## *A Few More Important Things!*

Due to the large amount of collaborative work in our classroom we will learn and practice several group norms. Thus it is important for students to:

“1<sup>st</sup> seek to understand, then to be understood”

### **Schoology Course Website**

I require that all students and parents/guardians use our class website on Schoology. The daily agenda, long-term assignments, power points and due dates are found on the website calendar.

**Please bookmark the course website and use it regularly**

### **Guide for Student Success**

Successful students attend class!

If you are **absent** please remember that it is your responsibility to go to the Schoology calendar to see what you missed and then come to me for clarification, handouts, evaluations and/or participation and lab makeup's.

**Organization is the key! Please keep all papers in separated sections in your binder.**

Last, but certainly not least:

I hope that you will find Biology exciting and challenging. Although you will be graded on your individual assignments and evaluations, a large part of the “learning” will be collaborative. I expect you to participate in class discussions and lab activities.

In order to gain the most from this class:

*“Explore thinking & learning, not knowing”*