Honors Biology 1
Mrs. Urban

Course Description: Honors Biology 1 is an advanced course for sophomores. It involves “hands-on” lab investigations and a thorough understanding of the scientific method. Over the course of the year, we will cover many topics including cell structure and function, DNA, RNA, protein synthesis, genetics, photosynthesis, respiration, evolution, classification of organisms, the diversity of life and ecology. In order for a student to be successful in Honors Biology, the student must come to class every day, participate in activities, complete all assignments and labs, and like to learn new and changing information!

General Guidelines:
1) Be prompt - Arrive to class on time and turn in assignments when they are due.
2) Be prepared - Bring required materials to class each day and prepared for the day's lesson. This includes completing reading assignments!
3) Be productive - Be on task and take pride in your work.
   - Follow all Safety Rules
   - Remain in your seat until the bell rings
4) Be polite - Respect the people and equipment in the classroom.
   - Storerooms, cabinets, the teacher's desk and computer are off limits
   - Talk when appropriate

Required Materials and Supplies:
1. A three-ring binder with dividers for holding assignments, labs, etc.
2. A biology notebook
3. Pencil and pen - We have a classroom set of colored pencils but many students prefer to have their own
4. Calculator – Once again, I have a few but bring one if you own one.
5. Textbook – (Star/Taggart). Each student will be checked out a book for HOME. We have a class set in the room and I will have books available to take to study hall.

DO NOT BRING: Food, drinks or anything else that will distract you or someone else. Use of electronic devices without permission will result in an “electronics violation”.

Grade Breakdown:
Student achievement will be based on, but not limited to class participation, laboratory work, notebooks, portfolios, written and oral tests, and written and oral communication skills. Biology grades are based on a percentage of total points possible. Lab, quiz, assignment, and test points are all equal in weight.
Semester Grade: First quarter: 40% Second quarter: 40% Semester test: 20%

Grading Scale:
90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D Below 60% = F
-Grades may be checked at any time using PowerSchool
-It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check for missing assignments and make-up work.
- It is also your responsibility to schedule a time for make-up labs, tests, etc. Lunch is the best time for make-up work.
- Communication is always the best policy. Please let me know if you have any questions about grades.
(A little secret – sometimes your teacher even makes mistakes so check your grades often and hold on to assignments when they are returned).

**Class Work, Late Work and Make-Up Work:**
- This is an honors class. We will have homework almost every night. Expect quizzes over the homework and reading each week. Reading and extra research may be required outside of class.
- I expect assignments to be turned in complete and on time.
- Keep all of your assignments. They will be useful when preparing for the semester test and in case of a grading error.
- If you were notified of a test before an absence, you must take it on the day you return.
- If you miss a class
  - You have one day for each day you miss to complete assignments. Keep in mind that labs will need to be made up ASAP because the materials will be put away.
  - If we are in a computer lab the day you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up the assignment.
  - If you know you are going to be gone, ask for make-up work BEFORE you leave. I will try to accommodate requests for assignments.
  - Take advantage of any extra credit opportunities. Also it is EXTRA credit, not replacement credit. Do not expect extra credit at the end of the quarter to raise your grade.

**Email is the best way to contact me** – surban@helenaschools.org. You may also leave a voicemail at 324-2606. (If I don’t respond to a voicemail, please call back or email me!!!