



Mrs. Pamela Mills Loper Honors Biology Room FF2508

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Welcome to Honors Biology and to high school for many of you! I have been teaching science since 2005 previously at a private school. I returned home to Grissom in 2018 as a teacher. My two daughters and I are proud Grissom Tigers. Once a Tiger, always a Tiger 😊

To be completed by the parent and returned in the Schoology drop box after reading the syllabus:

Student Full and Preferred Name _____

Period _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____ Parent/Guardian Phone _____

When and how is the best way for me to reach you? _____

What do you most want me to know about your child? _____

Feel free to write more.

Virtual Office Hours will consist of morning in-person instruction and afternoon planning, grading, and office hours. Office hours are for tutoring, one-on-one or small group help, and parent conferences. Please, do not hesitate to reach out if needed. The schedule for in person learning will be different but has not been posted yet.

Communication: Assignments and announcements will be posted in Schoology and in Mastering Biology. **All grades will be posted in INow and this is the place to monitor cumulative grades.** You will also see grades in the learning platforms Schoology and Mastering Biology, but please remember to check INow for the final grade. Students and parents, please contact me by email (pamela.loper@hsv-k12.org) with questions or concerns or to schedule a conference.

Course description: Honors Biology and Biology both encompass an overview of the study of life. However, Honors Biology differs in that honors level students move at a faster pace, work at a higher level, and handle longer assignments. Honors level tests require more thinking and understanding in addition to rote memorization.

Course objective: Students will learn the biology content outlined in the Alabama Course of Study and the Huntsville City Schools PLP as prerequisites for advanced studies in AP Biology, anatomy & physiology, and ultimately college.

Course expectations: Students are expected to come to class everyday prepared to learn by participating and cooperating. This includes the virtual classroom. Students will need to do homework and to study by previewing and reviewing until the information is understood and committed to memory. Students are expected to ask questions and to ask for help, as necessary. We will respect each other, the environment, and the learning materials following all HCS rules from the Behavioral Learning Guide. Lastly, I expect honesty. Any dishonesty including cheating/copying breaks the covenant of trust and damages the teacher-student relationship. Work that is copied from any source will receive a zero. This includes copying/pasting from the internet.

Quarter averages: 40% Learning activities and practice primarily from Schoology and Mastering Biology, 60% tests, quizzes, or other summative assessments. **Students are responsible for self-monitoring of assignments and grades.**

Late work: You cannot contribute to class if you are not prepared to listen and discuss. Please stay current with your work. Students will receive ½ credit for late work after the first two weeks of school. Notes will be made in INow for work that is late or incomplete.

Student/ teacher/ parent responsibilities: There is a covenant between students, parents, and teachers. We each have our part to do. My whole purpose for being at Grissom is to teach science and to prepare my students to be life-long learners and good citizens. Students do best when they take responsibility for their own learning completing all assignments and studying. Students should ask for help and communicate with their teachers about concerns, questions, and grades. Parents are responsible for making sure that their child attends school every day prepared to learn. Please monitor their grades and homework and contact me by email with any concerns. My responsibility is to provide learning opportunities using best practices and to monitor progress providing feedback and grades. This year especially, we all have the added responsibility of keeping each other healthy and safe.

Resources:

INow for grades

Schoology for notes, learning resources, assignments, and announcements

Online textbook (make sure to read the chapters)

Mastering Biology for practice quizzes, tutorials, and an interactive version of the textbook