 **Welcome to Honors Biology**

**With Mr. Setzer!**

**Email: Noah.Setzer@ucps.k12.nc.us**

**Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s),**

Hi, and welcome to Mr. Setzer’s Biology class! I am very excited to work alongside you and your student to make this a fun and successful semester. This is challenging science course, so it is likely to involve more classwork, homework, and more challenging assessments than other courses your student has taken already. Due to the fast pace of the course, each student may fall behind at times. Students must know that the ultimate responsibility for learning is on them, so they must take initiative to ask for help, attend office hours, and study and work a little extra in order to reach their potential in the class.

I believe that **support from home is the most essential part** of each student’s success. It is important that you keep up with your student’s grades and attendance, which you can now do online through the Parent Portal! Please be mindful that there will be either a progress report or report card sent home with your student every three weeks.

If you ever have questions or concerns about your student, please feel free to contact me via email at **Noah.Setzer@ucps.k12.nc.us**. You may also reach me by calling Porter Ridge. Please complete the contact information listed below so that I may contact you should the need arise. Thank you for your cooperation. I look forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,

Noah Setzer

**Supply List for Biology** (bring these every day!)

1. **One-Inch Three-Ring Binder** (organized)
2. 8 Notebook Dividers w/ tabs (labels below)
3. Notebook Paper & Pencils
4. Colored Pencils, Scissors, glue sticks, and red pens are highly recommended (some will be provided in class)
5. Textbook – Biology STEMscopes (kept at school but available online w/ course assignments)
6. ChromeBook (school-issued laptop computer)

**Topics Covered in Bio I** (these should be your divider tabs):

1. Characteristics of Life & Biomolecules

2. Cells, Transport, & Energy

3. Cell Division & DNA

4. Genetics & Biotech

5. Evolution

6. Taxonomy & Behavior

7. Ecology

8. EOC Review

**NC Biology Essential Standards Link:**

[**http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/science/scos/support-tools/unpacking/science/biology.pdf**](http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/science/scos/support-tools/unpacking/science/biology.pdf)

**Graduation Requirement & EOC:** You must pass Biology to graduate from High School. The final exam is a State EOC (End-of-Course) Test. Students must prove proficiency on this exam to pass the course and obtain credit.

**Homework:** Biology is a fast-paced course with a lot of curriculum. As such, assignments that are not completed in class will often be finished for homework. However, most students who stay focused during class are able to finish the majority of their work during class time. There will be a few projects that will be require time at home to complete. Homework should rarely take more than 30 minutes. Please contact me if you find that your student’s homework load is excessive.

**OFFICE HOURS**! After school every **Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 – 3:30**, or other times by appointment. Students may come to receive extra support in a one-on-one or small group environment. When a student is misses a day of class, I expect that he/she will attend office hours to catch up on lessons and make up assignments.

**Grading:** Students should assume that every assignment will be graded unless otherwise stated. Grades are by category, with each assignment in a category having its own weight.

***Estimate of point values for different assignments:***

**Tests**: 40%

 **Quizzes:** 20%

**Classwork/Homework**: 30%

**In-Class Performance**: 10%

“EmpowerED Family Portal” Link:

[***https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/domain/2917***](https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/domain/2917)

This page provides parents with links to online resources and apps that students can access.