**Grimsley Senior High Honors Biology**

Mr. Zahorodny (*or just Mr. Z*)

**Email** – zahorow@gcsnc.com

**Tutoring hours**:

* Before school by appointment - you will need to let me know if you plan on attending, otherwise the building will be locked
* Lunch – ONLY WITH A PASS!!!!
* After school: if necessary, we will work out time with another teacher

**Course Objectives:** The goal of this class is to broaden students’ scientific knowledge through inquiry-based activities and hands-on laboratory experiments. In addition to scientific knowledge, students will use critical thinking skills in order to become better problem solvers.

**Course Overview:** Biology is the study of living organisms and their related processes. We will cover a broad range of topics this year ranging from cells and DNA all the way up to ecosystem dynamics. I also incorporate aspects of other science classes just to prepare my students for their future studies.

Because Biology is an EOC (End of Course) subject, students will be tested with a cumulative final at the end of the year which will count for 20% of their final course grade. The other 80% of a student’s final grade comes from the percentage­ that they received during each of quarters 1-4.

**Units Covered:**

First semester Second Semester

• Biomolecules • Heredity

• Cells • Biotechnology

* organelles • Evolution

• cell transport & energy • Adaptation

* cell cycle • Ecology

• DNA/RNA/Protein synthesis

**Preparation and Materials:** Each student will work to create interactive notebooks this year. The goal is that when it is time to study for the cumulative EOC final, all of the material we cover this year will be in two organized locations (We will use one notebook per semester). In order to interactively notebook (yeah, I just made that a verb), students will need to buy **one composition notebook**. Students will need to bring this notebook to class EVERY… SINGLE… DAY… along with a **pen or pencil**. I provide colored pencils, glue sticks, and scissors in class but you are more than welcome to bring your own. I’ll say it again…. *YOU MUST HAVE YOUR NOTEBOOK IN CLASS EVERYDAY!!!*

**Homework Policy:** Homework assignments and projects will be given periodically throughout the year and it is important that they be completed on time. Homework is meant to practice and reinforce what we are learning and so failure to complete homework is a missed learning opportunity (you wouldn’t miss any opportunities to win $1,000 would you?). Any homework assignments that are checked solely for completion will be incorporated into the notebook grades and may be resubmitted for partial credit during the notebook check. Homework assignments checked for accuracy will be collected on the due date. If homework graded for accuracy is turned in late, then 10% will be deducted for every day that the assignment is late.

**Grading Breakdown:** **A –** 90-100

Tests 50% **B –** 80-89

Quizzes (notebook check) 20% **C –** 70-79

Labs/activities 20% **D –** 60-69

Assignments 10% **E –** less than 60

**Make-up Policy**: Students who miss class will have three days to make up any assignments that occurred during their absence. Students will be able to copy any missed notes from my personal interactive notebook. All papers that were handed out during the absence will be paper-clipped together with the student’s name and filed in the shelving unit located on the back table. **Electronic copies of papers and notes will also be posted on the class website daily.** Students who miss a quiz or test are responsible for finding a time to make up the quiz or test. I am available before school or during lunch as long as you have made arrangements for me to be here. If you only have time available after school, then we will make arrangements with another teacher.

I do allow students to complete test corrections… but I have strict rules on this policy. In order to be eligible to complete test corrections, a student must score below a 70% on the test and must have completed the unit study guide! Students have four days once the tests have been returned to complete the corrections. Corrections must be done before school or during lunch (which means you will have to make arrangements and have a pass). Students will receive one half point of credit back for each corrected response… up to a maximum score of 70%. The entire test must be corrected in order to receive any credit back. The goal is that students learn how to study for and take a test the first time around.

**Safety Rules**: We will complete labs in class throughout the year and therefore safety is a top priority. A safety contract is going to be sent home and must be signed by both parent and student before the student is allowed to participate in any lab. An additional safety sheet will be glued in the front cover of every interactive notebook. Any horseplay or rule breaking will result in removal from the lab, a lab score of zero, and possible removal from all future labs. Lab safety rules will apply to this classroom *EVEN WHEN LABS ARE NOT CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE*.

**Classroom Expectations**: Students will arrive to class on-time and ready to work with their **notebook and pencil**. Any student not in the room when the bell rings will be counted as tardy (more on that policy later). As soon as students enter the room they will pick up all papers needed for the day (located on the back desk), pick up any missed work, take out any homework that was due, and begin to work on whatever bellringer activity is on the board.

Students will be respectful of themselves, their classmates, and any teachers or visitors present in the classroom or hallways. Being respectful includes, but is not limited to: raising your hand to speak, not talking while others are talking, being considerate of other peoples’ feelings, beliefs, and values, and treating property that is not yours with care. The use of profanity will not be tolerated.

All electronics need to be put away at the beginning of class and may not be used or charged during class. **THIS INCLUDES EARBUDS/HEADPHONES!!!!!** I do not care if you are not listening to anything or if they are not hooked up to a phone…. I DON”T WANT TO SEE THEM. Students caught using electronics at any point will be removed from the classroom. There will be some activities that we use phones for in class and I will identify these activities at the beginning of class. Any improper use of electronic devices during an activity will result in removal from the activity and a grade of zero.

**Tardy Policy**: Told you it was coming!!!

The Grimsley tardy policy is as follows…

 1st tardy – teacher warning

 2nd tardy – teacher warning/parent contact

 3rd tardy – final warning/detention and parent contact

 4th tardy – administrative referral and parent contact

**Bathroom Policy**: At the beginning of each quarter each student will be given 4 bathroom passes. Students may not use the passes to leave the classroom during the first and last 10 minutes of class, or while taking notes. Passes may only be used once and require a teacher signature to be valid (If you need to interrupt what we are doing for me to sign the bathroom pass, it is probably not an appropriate time to use the bathroom). Students will still need to sign out of the classroom by the door before leaving. Passes will carry over from quarter to quarter and students are responsible for holding onto their own passes. Any lost passes will not be reimbursed.

Class website: [www.Zbiology.weebly.com](http://www.Zbiology.weebly.com)

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I DO DO NOT have access to a computer at home with which I can access [www.zbiology.weebly.com](http://www.zbiology.weebly.com) to access work on days when I am absent.

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Student Name (printed) Parent Name (printed)

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Student Signature Parent Signature

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 Parent **phone** contact

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 Parent **email** contact

 I prefer to be contacted by: □ phone □ email

 Please check one

**Grimsley XC – Together in Education**

As assistant cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track coach, I am always looking for ways to improve the programs so that our student athletes can experience greater success. One way we raise money is through the Together in Education program that Harris Teeter runs. By signing up for our account, the Grimsley cross country and track teams will receive a portion of the sales every time you purchase **Harris Teeter brand items** using your VIC card. It does not cost anything to join…. Harris Teeter is simply sharing their profits with our program. If you already support other Together in Education programs, you may still sign up to contribute to our teams. Harris Teeter will split your purchases among up to five schools or programs. You may sign up for our program by telling your Harris Teeter cashier that you would like program **5283** (our code) linked to your VIC card. The program does reset every August so you would have to do this once each year…OR… you may provide either your VIC card number or the associated phone number along with the last name that is on the account and I can automatically link your VIC card year after year so that you never have to think about it… remember this is a free way to support our Grimsley Whirlies. Thank you for your support!

VIC card number OR phone number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Last name on account \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Please link my VIC card to Grimsley XC/Track for this year only

 Please link my VIC card to Grimsley XC/Track continuously each year