August 4, 2014



Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your family had an enjoyable, safe summer! My name is Megan Mitchell and I will be your child’s Honors Biology teacher.

Honors Biology is an important class for students. As you may know, students will take the Biology End of Course exam on May 5th. This year we will work hard so each student will feel confident and prepared to perform at high levels on the EOC, **which is 25% of his or her second semester grade**. In addition to preparing for the EOC, this course will integrate high-level science content, ACT preparation, and equip students with skills that will set them up for success in future high school courses, college, and careers. **Students in Honors Biology can expect to engage with college-level content, participate in rigorous labs and activities, receive challenging assignments, be evaluated on a higher level, and complete a major project each nine weeks.**

With the ideas of what students need to learn and practice in mind, we have several **important goals** on which we are working this year. Our goals are:

* **Each student will score Advanced on the EOC**
* **At least 5 points of growth on the science ACT**
* **Proficient/Advanced on at least 85% of state standards (CLEs) as determined by our standards based grading system** (Please see syllabus for standards based grading information.)

To reach these goals, I expect students to be responsible, be respectful, and be ready. In order to do this, students will need to **come to class prepared and ready to participate** every day. **Students will need several classroom supplies** that are listed on the **syllabus**. I do realize that schedules often change at the beginning of the year and have arranged the class materials due date, **August 18th,** with that in mind; however, please be aware that the deadline is concrete. Additionally, students will often have assignments to complete outside of class. For students that need extra assistance, tutoring will be availableafter school (**Tuesday and Thursday; 2:30-3:30)** or by appointment. You and your child will also have access to all class materials and outside resources on our **classroom website (www.msmbio.weebly.com)**.

We will be doing a lot in the classroom to ensure your child is successful, and in order to reach the highest level of success, I maintain an open line of communication with parents and guardians, including **emails, phone calls, texts, and our class website**.Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns!

Please also take a look at the syllabus, which outlines the course **in more detail**. **A portion must be signed by you and returned by August 18th.** **Please keep this letter for your records.** Again, you are always more than welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with this course. I look forward to working with you and your child this year!

Sincerely, **Contact Information**:

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 Ms. Megan Mitchell