



WEST HIGH SCHOOL

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May 11, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

All students in Biology 1 at West High School will have the opportunity to earn an honors designation on their transcript beginning in 2006-2007. Students interested in pursuing the honors designation must meet the expectations required of all students. Many assignments, projects and exams will also include honors options that provide greater challenges and opportunities to demonstrate deeper understanding. To earn the honors designation on their transcript, students must satisfactorily complete at least 80% of all honors opportunities offered.

Students will enroll in **Biology 1**, and this is the course that will be listed on report cards throughout the semester. At the end of each semester, students who successfully earn the honors designation will have their transcripts changed to reflect **Honors Biology 1** as the course taken.

Details on participation in the Honors Biology 1 option are included in the contract enclosed with this letter. More details and specific assignments will be available from the Biology teachers when school begins in the fall.

Sincerely,

The West High School Biology Team

WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Honors Option for Biology 1

All interested students must sign up to participate in Honors Biology 1 within the first two weeks of each semester.

The honors designation will appear on the student transcript at the end of each semester, contingent upon successful completion of honors assignments.

Honors assignments will include alternate reading assignments, different assessments and activities/projects that allow the student to demonstrate deeper understanding and mastery of the topics in biology. Students opting for honors will be issued an alternative textbook: *Biology: Concepts and Connections* by Campbell, et al.

Successful completion of at least 80% of all offered honors assignments and assessments is required for the student to be considered for the honors designation.

Successful demonstration of deeper understanding and mastery will be determined by the professional judgment of the biology teacher. Granting of the honors designation on the transcript will also be at the professional discretion of the biology teacher.

A student may choose to opt out of the honors option with parental permission. However, completed assignments that included an honors component can not be redone and grades will not be changed retroactively.

An optional Honors Biology Discussion Club will be offered during the Lunch and Learn period once a week for all interested students, which may be of particular interest to students pursuing the Honors designation in Biology.

I understand the commitment being undertaken and agree to the criteria above for participation in Honors Biology 1.

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date: