

MOUNTAIN POINTE HIGH SCHOOL
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT – HONORS BIOLOGY

Dear Parents:

This is an introductory letter to acquaint you with our course work at Mountain Pointe High School and to better inform you on how to check your son or daughter's progress throughout the school year.

Honors Biology is a two-semester science course designed for students who are college bound or who may desire to enter a science career. This course does meet the laboratory credit toward graduation, which prepares students for the discipline necessary to successfully complete the lab courses for graduation and college acceptance at Arizona universities.

The following are the goals of this course:

- 1) *Acquaint students with scientific facts and with the ideas that are built on them.*
- 2) *Help students understand what science is and the use of the scientific method as it relates to critical thinking and problem solving skills.*
- 3) *To promote curiosity, careful observation and, most importantly, reasoning skills.*
- 4) *To promote an awareness and appreciation of the environment we live in and to become familiar with the scientific issues that we must deal with in today's society.*

As an interested parent I am sure you would like to help in promoting the education of your son and/or daughter. The staff and I at Mountain Pointe High School would appreciate your help and support. I have listed on the back of this letter a few key areas that you should check as the semester progresses.

Please sign the bottom part of this letter and email me that you received this letter. Keep the second page for your reference. By signing this contract you are acknowledging that you understand and have gone over the class operation with your son and/or daughter who will return the bottom section to me.

Thank you for your interest and cooperation. I look forward to a successful and productive school year.

Sincerely yours,

Roger LeBlanc, M.S.
Honors Biology Teacher
Mountain Pointe High School
rleblanc@tuhsd.k12.az.us

PLEASE DETACH and RETURN

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I HAVE READ THE CLASS OPERATION, INTRODUCTORY LETTER AND THE KEY AREAS ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS LETTER.

STUDENTS SIGNATURE

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

(DATE)

PARENTAL GUIDELINES for HONORS BIOLOGY

1. *A notebook is required to be maintained daily. This notebook contains all the materials, assignments and records of your child's progress through Honors Biology.*
2. *If your son or daughter is experiencing difficulty doing homework assignments, please have him or her write down the specific questions on paper as they arise, and ask them of me the next class period. Encourage asking questions in class. If extra help is needed or assignments need to be made-up it is the responsibility of the student to see me and make arrangements.*
3. *There may not be individual homework assignments to be handed in each day, however, this does not mean there is "nothing to do" in Honors Biology. This course is additive. One concept builds upon another and so on, thus constant review of notes and keeping up with reading will be necessary. Many assignments take time, planning and thought over a longer period of time than one day. Encourage your child not to wait to the last minute to study for tests or quizzes or to complete assignments. **PLEASE EMPHASIZE RESPONSIBILITY AND PROPER PLANNING SKILLS!!!!***
4. *Encourage daily attendance and being on time to class. Excused absences will be allowed make-up privileges within a reasonable time limit. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with me for make-up work.*
5. *If you notice that your child is experiencing difficulty, poor performance or need an explanation, please Email me at rleblanc@tuhsd.k12.az.us or have your student contact me personally as soon as possible.*
6. *Each quarter the school sends progress reports of each student's performance home. There are also periodic computer printouts that are handed out in class. It is the responsibility of each student is responsible for keeping track of his or her own points and grade percentage. Feel free to check their daily assignments and point sheets located in their notebooks to see if they are up to date and how your son or daughter progress in this class. If you would like to check your son/daughters homework or grades you may access them at my website that is listed below. My web site can be found at the Mountain Pointe High School web site under faculty. This year the Tempe Union High School District is implementing a new student information system called Genesis. This will allow all parents to access their student's information (for example attendance and grades immediately online). The school will present more information about Genesis at the beginning of the school year.*

<http://pridebiology.weebly.com/>

7. *The BEST method to keep in touch with me is by email. I have a computer on my teaching desk and I check my email whenever possible. My email address is: rleblanc@tuhsd.k12.az.us*