

Student Name (Print) _____ Course: Honors Biology

(Honors Biology)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The staff at Tuscola High is pleased that your child is considering taking one or more *advanced* classes next year. For the AP (Advanced Placement) courses, the college-level work is strenuous, but the rewards for making the commitment & seeing it through are great. You may already know that a passing grade on a College Board AP test in high school allows a student to enter college with credit earned ahead of time. Each year Tuscola has a significant number of students who enter college with various amounts of credit earned through AP courses. To compensate for the increased difficulty of the AP & Advanced courses, AP classes are weighted with two extra points awarded in computing a student's Grade Point Average, while *Advanced* courses are awarded one extra point.

Please understand Tuscola's policies concerning all *advanced* courses. Once students have made their final class selections, *changes **will not** be made except in cases of administrative decisions.* Thus, both students & parents should be very certain of the commitment they are making. Additionally, students taking AP classes are offered the National Advanced Placement Test for each AP course at a cost of \$89 per test, which a student must take & pass in order to receive college credit. The fee for **each** test will be collected in December. Please understand that class availability will be based on student interest and qualification. Therefore a class may or may not be available and the number of sections will also be determined by this.

Should you have any questions concerning the AP courses or tests, please feel free to contact the Tuscola Counseling Center at 456 – 2408.

I have reviewed the contents of this letter as well as criteria & modifications listed for each AP course to which my child is applying. I understand the AP courses require college level work which is much more rigorous than normal high school courses. I also understand that participation in any AP class requires that my child pass the National Advanced Placement Test in order to receive college credit.

Student (Print Name) _____

Student Signature (Sign Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Print Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Sign Name) _____

Student Name (Print)_____ Course: Honors Biology

**HAYWOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS
HAYWOOD DIFFERENTIATED EDUCATION PLAN
HONORS COURSE**

Instructor: Yvonne Plemmons (Room B-16), yplemmons@haywood.k12.nc.us

NAME OF COURSE: Honors Biology

GRADE(S) OFFERED: 10 SCHOOL: Tuscola

PREREQUISITES: Earth Science

CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENT:

1. "B" or better average in earth science
2. Successful performance on the Earth Science NC exam
3. Application essay (see attached page for details)
4. Parent approval

WAYS IN WHICH CONTENT AND INSTRUCTION ARE MODIFIED FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING AND GIFTED STUDENTS:

1. All materials are and workload is at advanced level, including text
2. Independent study is required
3. Research projects

OTHER INFORMATION:

Welcome to the world of Biology! You are about to begin a journey that will excite and teach you about yourself, the life around you, and the ecosystem in which we all live. Your mission throughout our journey is to be **responsible for your own actions** (work and behavior) and be prepared for the consequences that follow (grades, rewards, and disciplinary action). Our goal as a class is to become prepared for the **STATE BIOLOGY EOC** while exploring interesting areas of Biology through lectures and laboratory investigations.

UNITS OF STUDY

1. ECOLOGY
2. CHEMISTRY OF LIFE
3. THE CELL
4. HEREDITY
5. EVOLUTION
6. BACTERIA, PROTISTS, FUNGI, PLANTS & ANIMALS

Honors Biology is designed as a lecture, independent study, laboratory, and field studies class. Students will be engaged in laboratory investigations in the areas of biological science.

I _____ **AGREE TO ALL OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS.**
(print name)

Signature:_____ **Date:** _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature: _____

*(Be sure to include your essay as described on next page)

Student Name (Print)_____ Course: Honors Biology

Your Essay

Please write neatly in your own handwriting (not typed, print or cursive) an one-page essay describing the areas of biology appeal to you and why you would like to explore these further in biology. Also, inform me of your career goals, even if they are unrelated to biology. (you may write it below or on a separate page)