

COURSE TITLE: IB Biology 1

Level of Difficulty	Estimated Homework	Prerequisites
Very Difficult	60-90 minutes	District: B- or better in Honors Chemistry and Honors Biology Department Suggestion: B- or better in Honors Chemistry and Honors Biology

Course Description:

IB Biology 1 is the first year in a two-year higher level (HL) course in biology. IB Biology 1 is required to continue into year 2 as there are a required number of lab hours mandated by IB.

In IB Biology 1, there is a heavy emphasis on independent thinking, student investigation and inquiry skills, research, analysis, and application. Students will communicate their ability to apply, critique and revise their findings in several ways such as professional-level visual, written and oral communications. Several independent, in-depth lab reports will be submitted.

In IB Biology 1, students will revisit concepts learned in Honors Biology but will explore these concepts at a much greater level of depth. This course is designed to meet the curriculum requirements of the International Baccalaureate Program. This course incorporates recent scientific thinking and emphasizes opportunities for research and discovery as well as personal experience in the use of the scientific method. Students will further their content knowledge of biology in preparation for IB Biology HL 2. Students will continue to build on the content they explored in Honors Biology, including the nature of science. Units of study include preparing for their individual Internal Assessment experiment in year 2, statistics, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, further exploration of evolution, and ecology.

Grading:

The grading system is based on a combination of formative and summative assessments. Homework is assigned for practice and reinforcement and therefore has a lower impact on the overall grade when compared to labs, quizzes and tests. There will also be a heavily-weighted cumulative end-of-course final exam where students can demonstrate their level of mastery in a summative context. The grading system is based on weighted percentages. Each assignment will have a point value within the weighted category. As stated previously, assessments and labs are weighted more heavily than homework. Individual teachers may make modifications on the weighted percentages.

Syllabus:

This is the first year of a two-year IB Biology HL (Higher Level) course. For more detailed information, here is a link to the [IB Diploma Program Subject Brief for Biology](#).

Supplemental Information:

Students can only take the IB Biology exam after both IB Biology 1 and IB Biology 2.

During the course, IB Science students will work outside of class in groups of 3-5, composed of both IB Biology and IB Chemistry students, to conduct a joint exploration of a scientific topic.

Homework Estimate: This is a general guideline for planning and scheduling purposes. A student's ability level may affect actual preparation time needed.