



# BIOLOGY

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to a new semester! . I am very excited to have the opportunity to teach your child Biology at Fuquay-Varina High School! I anticipate that this semester will be a successful one! My hope is that we will have fun while learning a lot over the course of the spring semester. I want you to know that I am here to help your student learn. I sincerely want your student to be successful in school. I am willing to do what I can to give him/her the opportunity to do so.

I have asked your student to share with you our classroom policies and rules so that you will know what my expectations in the classroom are from the beginning. I have these policies and rules in place so that the best learning environment is available for **all** students. Please take a moment to read over the policies, discuss them with your student, and sign at the bottom in the designated location. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about these policies and rules. I am more than happy to discuss them with you.

Biology is an extremely important course for your student. It is one of three courses that students must pass and show proficiency on a state administered End Of Course (EOC). Regular studying is an essential part of success in this course. Most days students will have a small homework assignment, but I do ask that in addition to that assignment that each student spend TEN MINUTES studying the notes/information given that day in Biology. Homework is an important part of preparation and review of material learned in class. Failure to complete homework assignments often leads to lower quiz and test scores. We will also be completing an interactive notebook of student work throughout the semester. This is a fun and interesting way to take notes and stay organized and will count heavily toward your student's course grade. It's also an easy way for parents to keep up with what your child is doing in biology.

I also want to make you aware that I will send home progress reports every 3 weeks as required by Fuquay-Varina High School. Each time a progress report is sent home, please take a moment to review it and have a discussion with your student about their strengths and where they can improve. Please sign and return the progress report with your student. If you'd like to keep track of your student's progress more frequently, parents may sign up for a Power Schools (HomeBase) account in the front office which allows parents access to their child's attendance and grades and is a highly beneficial tool in collaborating with teachers regarding your child's success.

Mark your calendar for **Open House on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00pm-7:30pm. I look forward to meeting each of you at this time. To keep in the loop of what we are doing in our classroom, follow me on Twitter (**@mrshalkuff**) and please visit my website at **www.mrshalkuff.weebly.com**, as I update the site regularly. I also run a class and parent text and email list through which I will periodically send updates and reminders. If you would like to be included on this list, please enroll in Remind101 by **texting the number 81010** with the code **@1pfall2017 (1<sup>st</sup> Period)** or **@4pfall2017 (4<sup>th</sup> Period)**. If you prefer to receive these updates as emails in lieu of text messages, please email **1pfall2017@mail.remind.com** or **4pfall2017@mail.remind.com**. You may leave subject blank. If you would ever like an update on your student's progress in the class, please feel free to email me directly at **jhalkuff@wcpss.net**. As you can see, I want to work closely with you to make sure that your student has a successful semester. I am looking forward to a great year with your child!

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Halkuff  
Science Teacher  
Fuquay-Varina High School  
919-557-2511

<b><u>Student Supplies</u></b>	<b><u>Teacher Wish List</u></b>
<b><u>For the Classroom</u></b>	<b><u>For the Lab</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•8 Pocket Folders w/fasteners</li><li>•Highlighters (various colors)</li><li>•1 pack Colored Pencils</li><li>•#2 Pencils</li><li>•Multicolored Pens (various colors)</li><li>•6 Packages of Lined Index Cards</li><li>•10 Glue Sticks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sharpies</li><li>• Dry Erase Markers</li><li>• Crayons</li><li>• Tissues</li><li>• Dish &amp; Hand Soap</li><li>• Disinfecting Wipes</li><li>• White Vinegar</li><li>• Light Corn Syrup</li><li>• Real Sugar Packets</li><li>• FLAT Toothpicks</li><li>• Dixie Cups</li><li>• Round Balloons</li></ul>