

September 2, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

iText

Welcome to Honors Biology at Eastview High School! We are looking forward to an exciting year in the rapidly growing field of biology. Our © 2002 textbooks come with internet access capabilities called *iText*. *iText* enables your son or daughter to have the textbook plus many of the worksheets, activities, quizzes, and self-tests available anytime electronically by using either a CD or internet web site version. Using the internet version of *iText* has many more advanced features. Your child may keep his/her book at school and use the *iText* internet or CD version at home.

Lab Fee: \$20

In the course registration guide you may have noticed there is a lab fee associated with this course. We began charging a lab fee several years ago to enable the faculty to provide more lab experiences for your student. The money will **only be used for disposable materials used** in labs which your student will use this year. These items may include microorganisms and growth medium, plants and seeds, preserved dissection specimens (fetal pigs, crayfish & worms), food products and chemicals, as well as DNA, restriction enzymes, and associated gel-electrophoresis materials. These and many other disposable items will be used to provide hands-on learning experiences.

If you have any questions regarding this fee, please contact your student's teacher. The teachers have already purchased many materials and will begin using them soon. Many items won't be ordered until the funds are secured due to the high cost. Therefore, it would be very appreciated if you could get the lab fee back to your student's teacher by **September 12th**. It can be paid for by check or cash. Please make checks payable to Eastview High School or EVHS and put "**HBio lab fee**" in the memo area. **Staple** the cash or check to the slip. Check off the blank on the permission slip that applies to you with respect to dissection.

Walking Field Trip Permission Slip:

Nine years ago Jane Porterfield, EVHS biology teacher, began development of a nature study area adjacent to the school site. This project was made possible due to her grant from the Department of Natural Resources. It is used much more extensively by the regular Biology staff for their "adopt a pond" project practice site. As an Honors Biology staff we hope to get students out in the field to study at this site at least once. Students may also be walking outside on the school site with their teacher to study urban wildlife and identify trees and other plants. A very few students might get an opportunity to collect some aquatic organisms in our wetland while wearing waders and a life vest. Even though this is an **unlikely** scenario for most students, we wanted to let parents be aware of this opportunity in the event they do **NOT** feel comfortable allowing their student this experience.

Course Syllabus

Please read the course syllabus and scan for course content, grading rules, and behavioral expectations. Please scan for items of concern or clarification and, at your convenience, we encourage you to contact the teacher through email or voice mail so we may address your concerns or clarify any misconceptions. The district voice mail number is 651-683-6969 and the mail boxes are listed below. Each teacher's email address is also listed below.

Please retain this yellow and return the white permission slip and lab fee by **Friday, September 12th**.
Thank you!

Sincerely,

The Honors Biology Faculty
Kevin Engstrom VM 93327
kevin.engstrom@district196.org

Michelle Schaffer VM 98673
michelle.schaffer@district196.org

Lab Fee and Walking Permission Slip Form
Eastview High School 2008 - 2009

Please print the student's first and last name, and check all blanks that apply to your student. Then attach the lab fee and return this white sheet (keep the yellow sheet for your records) with your student to his/her classroom teacher by Friday, September 12th. Thank You!!!!

My student, _____,

(Please legibly print first and last name – thanks!!)

_____ has permission to attend any **walking** field trips associated with the honors biology class.

_____ has permission to wear chest waders with a life vest to study aquatic organisms near the shoreline of our nature area under teacher supervision.

_____ has shown me the course syllabus and I have read it and will call his teacher if I have any concerns or questions regarding curriculum, grading, or classroom policies.

_____ has stapled the \$20 lab fee to this form. (please write "HBio Lab Fee" on check memo)

_____ has registered online for *itext* (&/or picked up a CD-ROM) and knows how to use this technology.

_____ will participate to the level he/she feels comfortable in the dissections of the earthworm, crayfish, & fetal pig. (this could mean observing others doing the dissection, helping periodically as he/she feels able, or digging in as the lead dissector).

Or

_____ will NOT likely participate in the physical dissection and needs alternate materials. Most students find a way to be successful by participating in the dissection to some extent. This is very helpful because the Pig Practical involves identifying structures on actual pigs.

List any medications and medical conditions, such as bee sting or other allergies, or physical limitations that would be important to know for a school site walking field trip:

Parent or Guardian's Signature _____

In the event of an emergency, could you please list a daytime phone number where your child's parent or guardian might be reached (Don't be alarmed, this is not a typical occurrence).

(_____)

Parent's first (& last if different) name at this phone number (**print**) _____

Thanks,

Kevin Engstrom & Michelle Schaffer, EVHS Honors Biology Faculty