

To: All prospective Honors Biology Students

From: Ms. Judy Tornwall, your teacher

Re: Preparation for Honors Biology “SUMMER WORK” – *(Complete prior to the start of classes on August 9th next year. Bring to your class first day. HINT – email teacher with questions during the summer.)*

I always tell my students when you leave Honors Biology at the end of this school year you will not be the same person you are today. This is a good thing and nothing to be frightened of. The living world will be opened to you and you will look at the world around you as you have never done before. I have two suggestions to aid you in this wonderful experience. Here they are:

If you travel this summer to a new environment or you just explore your neighborhood LOOK around you! What animals and plants do you see? Can you identify them? Do you have guides at home to help you? If not do you have computer internet access, a library or a family member to help you identify what you find. I know not everyone has guides such as “Spiders and their Kin” or the “Mushrooms of North America” like I do but there are resources you can use. Keep a LOG or JOURNAL of what you find. I’m sure many of you are great artists (I’m not but can always draw biological pictures) draw these great specimens! I’ll ask you to share your log or journal on the FIRST day of school.

My second suggestion is to begin researching the topic or question you would like to investigate for your Science Fair Project that will be due in early December. This TOPIC will be due soon after school begins in August and your RESEARCH PLAN before the end of the first marking period. You know “Science” can only be learned by doing and that is why your own research and experimentation is so important in an Honors Class. What are you interested in? What question would you like to answer? These are the topics you must investigate. There have been over the years Honors Biology students representing PCHS at the STATE SCIENCE FAIR and one at the INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR. These are great experiences. In order to help you with this I have included a copy of the INTEL 2009 Student Handbook. You may also access the link to the Science Fair website on my page Judith Tornwall, Science Dept. at www.PortCharlotteHigh.net. The Science Fair site can also be found at <http://www.societyforscience.org/> This should help you get started and learn what is expected in the completed project in December.

I look forward to meeting each of you. Enjoy your summer vacation and know next year will be an exciting experience for all of us!

Love,

Ms. Tornwall