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**WELCOME TO AP BIOLOGY!**

2018-2019

Mrs. Begert

Rm A208

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Instructor Expectations:

1. The main objective of this course is to prepare you for the AP Exam in May. It is my expectation that all students in this class will conduct themselves as if this were a college class. This means that you will be required to be independent thinkers capable of reading, taking notes, and completing the required assignments. It is also **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to *participate* in class discussions, *ask questions* if you are confused and *see me* for extra help.
2. In order to prepare for the AP Exam in May, we will be covering a lot of the Campbell textbook, as well as supplemental readings I will give you. Reading the text is a must. Read the book nightly so that you don’t fall behind. EXPECT a DAILY quiz (5 short questions as a reading check). You will also complete online activities, tutorials and quizzes on Mastering Biology. These will support the reading and what we do in class. There are also video links on my website that students find helpful.
3. **LABS** - AP Biology is a LAB BASED course and inquiry-based labs will be used whenever appropriate. Some lab assignments will require a standard report (typed) and others will require a PPT or poster presentation (this will be stated prior to completing the lab). If you are legitimately absent for a lab activity you must make it up ASAP. Some lab activities cannot be made up due to material availability, but you are still responsible for the acquiring the data or completing an online version of the lab. ALL labs will have a **pre-lab quiz** and then either a **post-lab quiz** or a **lab write-up** or in some cases, both.
4. A record of **excellent attendance is required**. Since this will be a MUCH faster paced course than the traditional high school course, missing class will be a huge disadvantage. If you are absent due to illness or a family emergency, please contact me as soon as possible. Most of the time, I can email you the missed assignments. If you miss school due to academic field trips, athletic trips, music trips, vacations, etc., YOU are responsible for any material missed. Please see me BEFORE you go.
5. Your grades will be based on a **point system** and will be an accurate measure of your achievement. Homework will not count towards your grade and there will be **no extra credit** offered. Assessments that will be used to determine your grade will consist of quizzes, tests, lab investigations/reports, projects and presentations. Make certain that all assignments are completed on time. This is a college level class and *no re-takes* will be given.

# Learning “how you learn” and “how to study” is a vital skill for college and if you have yet to determine this, now is the time. Study groups are strongly encouraged. You never learn something as well as when you have to explain it to someone else.

Topics we will cover:

The AP Biology course outline is dictated by **The College Board**, and therefore we will focus the 4 Big Ideas which the board has determined to be the underlying themes of biology. All topics we learn fit under one of these big ideas.

Big Idea 1: The process of **evolution** drives the diversity and unity of life.

Big Idea 2: Biological systems utilize free **energy** and molecular building blocks to **grow**,

to **reproduce** and to maintain dynamic **homeostasis**.

Big Idea 3: Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to **information** essential to

**life processes.**

Big Idea 4: **Biological systems** interact, and these systems and their interactions possess

complex properties.

Throughout the year, you will become very familiar with these Big Ideas as well as the topics that we will study within each of the Big Ideas.

# Cheating policy:

# *I will absolutely NOT tolerate cheating/copying*. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment, an immediate referral to the administration, and a phone call home. It is expected that ALL work turned in is completely your own with the exception of assigned group work.

# Cell Phones

# *Cell phones are not to be in use during class time.* Students should silence their phones and place them in the cell phone holder when they enter class. Phones should remain there until the bell rings, or until the teacher grants permission for students to pick up their phones.

# PLDs

# *The expectation is that all students will follow the PLD acceptable use policy at all times.* If a student is found using their PLD in an inappropriate or unethical way, they will be reported and perhaps dismissed from class.

One last note ☺…I am extremely excited to be working with you this year. My goals are to help you see how exciting it is to study the complexities of biology, and to provide you with enough support so that you will do well on the AP Exam. I am here to help YOU succeed. Please ask immediately if there are any questions. Do not wait until you are completely confused. This class is equivalent to a *college biology course* and we will be moving at the same pace. It will be very easy to fall behind. DON’T!! You can make an appointment to meet with me after school or during any of my non-teaching periods and we can review whatever you are struggling to understand.

\*\*Remember that **all communication will be done through your school email or TEAMS.\*\***

I am looking forward to the exciting year we have ahead of us!

## Mrs. Begert

Please sign below acknowledging that you have read this information. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.