

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

\*\*REQUIRED SUMMER READING: (choose one book) – but feel free to read more ☺

*The Demon In The Freezer* by Richard Preston

← Highly recommend

*The Cobra Event* by Richard Preston (fiction)

*The Hot Zone* by Richard Preston

*Chromosome 6* by Robin Cook (fiction)

*The Forever Fix* by Ricki Lewis (nonfiction)

*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult (fiction)

*Into the Jungle: Great Adventures in the Search for Evolution:* by Sean B. Carroll

*Remarkable Creatures: Epic Adventures in the Search for the Origins of Species* by Sean B. Carroll

*Survival of the Sickest* by Dr. Sharon Moalem

← Highly recommend

- You must read 1 book over the summer
- Write an essay about what major biological concept(s) are dealt within each book. Include some examples of how the major concept is addressed in the book.
- Explain why it is an important concept for us to know about and understand.
- What conclusions you can make about the ideas/information presented in the book.
- What did you like about the book? What did you dislike?
- Each essay should be a minimum of 2 typed pages in length, but no more than 3 pages. Text should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins and you should use a 12 point font. Do **NOT** follow the format used in English class; instead start at the top of the first page. Include a cover sheet with your name, the title of the book, and the author's name.

The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent to 2 semesters of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. AP Biology includes those topics regularly covered in a college biology course for majors and differs significantly from the usual first high school course in biology with respect to the kind of textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, the kind of laboratory work done by students, and the time and effort

required of students. College biology majors also use the textbooks used for AP Biology and the labs done by AP Biology students are equivalent to, or the same as, those done by college students.

Therefore, the expectations are the same for AP Biology students as college biology majors. There will not be traditional homework assignments. You are expected to read the textbook every night and take notes on each chapter. This is in addition to any notes taken during class. AP Biology is a year-long course so you will receive credit for 2 semesters.

Classes will consist of inquiry-based labs, lectures, videos, case studies, and cooperative group work. Students are required to bring their textbook to class every day. There may not be make-up lab sessions for every lab, so it is extremely important that you attend class regularly.

There will also be quizzes and tests. Tests and quizzes can be made up if a student is absent. You will have the opportunity to earn back points on tests and quizzes by doing corrections on the multiple choice section of the test or quiz. Additionally, there are assignments done outside of class during each marking period that cover material not covered in class.

The level of expectation for this type of course is very high. Only students who are truly committed to high standards of excellence and commitment will succeed in AP Biology. This course is taught in the anticipation of having students take the Advanced Placement Exam in Biology and do well.

In order to be successful in AP Biology, you must have a very **strong ability to self motivate and a strong background in chemistry and biology**. You should have received high A's or B's in all science classes you have taken. **You must also be willing to ask for help. I will be more than happy to work with you because my job is to help you be successful.**

