



May 27, 2009

Dear AP BIO class-

I am so excited to teach APBio again this fall and looking forward to working with each of you!

AP BIO will be a challenging, yet fun course. You will work extremely hard in this course to be prepared not only to take the AP Exam, but also to engage in the world around you through the study of living things. This course will be a combination of readings, lectures and experiential learning. You will read and use science journals, science sections of the newspaper and movies throughout the course in order to tie in current environmental and social topics/concerns associated with biology to the themes listed below.

My goal for you is to be engaged in the exciting ever changing world of life science and to experience science as a process in which you problem solve and discover. In addition to the classwork, lectures, labs and readings, we will take at least 2 off campus fieldtrips in order to conduct some fieldwork. It is crucial for you to *experience* science, and conduct it as the process it is. Concepts and themes will be emphasized over fact memorization. The key to your success on the Exam and in this course will be for you to understand the big picture or big ideas of science that tie together all the facts.

SUMMER WORK:

I would like for you to have read UNIT 8 on Ecology prior to the first day of class. Be prepared to take a quiz on the subject matter. Complete each self-quiz at the end of each chapter, self grade it and correct it. Also – be prepared to come in and get dirty on day 1.

REQUIRED STUDENT MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

- **Textbook: *Biology*, AP Edition Eighth Edition, 2008 – Campbell, Neil A. and J. Reece, Pearson Prentice-Hall**
- ***AP Lab Manual for Students* (school will provide)**
- **Pearson Education AP Test Prep Series: AP Biology
To accompany: BIOLOGY Campbell * Reece
8e AP Edition
Fred W. Holtzclaw & Theresa Knapp Holtzclaw**

- Pens and Pencils
- Scientific calculator
- Colored pencils and markers (thin)
- 1 -inch 3 ring binder with pocket folders to organize notes, handouts, tests (needs to have clear pocket covering on it – see me with questions.)
- ¾ inch 3 ring binder for lab work (needs to have clear pocket covering on it)
- Flash drive (small)

SCHEDULING

- Class will be held on A- days, first block, from 8:20-9:50. Although all labs have been scheduled during class periods, please be prepared to stay during some XL periods to finish observations, calculations, graphing, etc.
- Our 1A scheduling, backing into XL, will allow for ample time in which to conduct quality lab work and projects.
- Extra help will be available during XL – from 10-10:45. The lab will also be open during that time during both A and B days to allow for any work to be completed on a lab.
- We will hold 1 Saturday AP Exam prep day prior to the Exam

I want you to be prepared to work really hard but to also have fun. We will have our first fieldtrip/fieldwork experience on my farm in the early fall. If you don't already own some long, rubber boots, be looking for some at Wal-Mart!

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call me or email me. My home number is 706-538-1111. lpendergrast@heritagehawks.org DO NOT STRESS over the reading this summer!!!!!!

I look forward to seeing you in August,

Mrs. Pendergrast