

Mrs. Kemp
AP Biology Course Outline & Expectations
Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts
2020-2021

Welcome to Advanced Placement Biology. I am excited that you have made the commitment to studying Biology at a higher level. AP Biology is designed to move at an accelerated pace involving material and skills comparable to that of a first year college level Biology course. This course will require dedication and self-motivation throughout this summer and entire school year. Independent work is not only required but expected and will play a key role in your success in this class. I hope that your experiences in this course will be both challenging and rewarding.

AP BIOLOGY SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS INFORMATION: The following summer assignments are required and must be completed and turned in on time. **None of these assignments will be accepted late** so please pace and manage your work accordingly with your summer work/job and/or vacation schedule. Summer assignments will be included in your quarter 1 grades and some content will be on the first major test for Q1. Again you are expected to complete this summer work **independently and on time**. Please follow the directions carefully so you receive full credit. Failure to follow the directions will result in point deductions. SUGGESTION & ADVICE: You can and may turn in assignments early if you complete them. You can and may work on more than one assignment at a time. In other words you can complete assignment #1 while working a bit on assignment #2 or even #3. Remember to pace yourself and manage your time wisely.

Summer assignment 1: Letter of Introduction / See attached / Due by Wednesday July 14 by midnight

Summer assignment 2: Biology Video Review / See attached / Due by Wednesday July 28th by midnight

Summer assignment 3: AP Inquisition / See attached / Due first day of class. Put in class binder/portfolio

AP BIOLOGY FALL - SPRING SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION:

WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR THIS COURSE:

- A 2 or 3 inch/ three ring binder (which we will call AP BIOLOGY PORTFOLIO), Fill with loose leaf paper and at least three dividers labelled CLASS NOTES, HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, LAB REPORTS. Bring the first day of class already completed.
- Always come to class prepared with whatever writing utensil you wish to use (blue/black pen/pencils/colored pens) You can take class notes with whatever color pen or pencils you want but your LAB REPORTS MUST BE TYPED and PRINTED OUT. General and daily homework assignments may be typed or handwritten in pencil, black or blue pen and must be neat, tidy and legible in order to receive full credit. You will also need at least one highlighter.
- Index cards: Any size and any color(s). We will regularly use index cards for various vocabulary work activities. You may want to invest in some type of index card holder. Index cards will be expected on day one of course.
- Scientific or graphing calculator: Do not purchase yet. We will go over which calculators are allowed during the AP Biology Exam, and a link to information on permitted calculators will be provided on our Google Classroom at the appropriate time.

GRADING FOR THIS COURSE & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

- Grades will be calculated on PowerSchool as a percentage of points earned out of total points possible.
- Homework assignments may receive full credit when handed in on time. Any homework assignment handed in late is subject to receiving 50% of total grade or no grade at all. If you are having difficulty with any assignment or deadline it is your responsibility to make me aware of those circumstances **before** the due date.
- All homework assignments will be posted on the GOOGLE CLASSROOM. Some will be completed on GOOGLE CLASSROOM and some will be required to be turned in. If you are absent the day a homework assignment is assigned, it will be listed on GOOGLE CLASSROOM and you are still responsible for it on the due date. If you are absent on the due date, it is expected to be turned in the day you return.
- LAB REPORTS will be required to be typed, printed out and turned in and must follow the standard lab report format/rubric handed out in class.
- Not every homework assignment/project will be accompanied by a rubric. Those that do not have a rubric will require you to practice your own judgement and scrutiny of the quality of your work, following directions, how to exceed expectations and proofread.
- All quizzes and test dates will be posted on Google Classroom. You will be expected to take all quizzes and tests the day they are scheduled (regardless of absenteeism). If there are extenuating circumstances please speak with me **before** the quiz/test date otherwise this policy stands firm.
- It is standard practice that scientists present their work and participate in peer review. There will be several times throughout this course you will present your work to the class and participate in peer review. This, along with daily participation in class discussions, will be calculated into your final grade each quarter.
- All work you submit or present must be your own original work. This includes on-line assignments, answers on quizzes and tests, presentations and all lab work (including graphs). Even though we will work in lab groups your written lab report must be your own words. If I have any reason to believe that the work you are submitting is not completely your own, or not correctly cited, we will discuss and you may receive a "0" for that assessment.

TOPICS WE WILL WORK TOWARDS COVERING:

Process of Evolution and Diversity and Unity of Life
Basics of Biochemistry
Carbon and Molecular Diversity of Life
Cell Structure and function
Membrane Transport and Cell Signaling
Metabolism, including respiration & fermentation
Photosynthesis
Cell Cycle
Several topics in Genetics

Development/Stem Cell/ Cancer
Basic Microbiology
(including both bacteria & viruses)
Basic Plant structure and life cycle
Broad Patterns of Evolution
Animal Form and Function
(which may include basic human anatomy
and physiology)
Several topics of Ecology/Enviro. Science

THE 4 BIG IDEAS OF AP BIOLOGY
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.

KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL AP BIOLOGY EXPERIENCE:

- Advocate for yourself - if you are struggling, reach out to a friend, teacher or trusted adult. Do not wait till the struggle is most difficult to address and control
- Be on time and prepared for class
- Work on your organization and time management skills. Put a plan of action in place for this and adjust as needed
- Be engaged in the learning process
- Complete assignments on time
- Ask for help when you need it
- Take care of yourself
- Be creative

BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE:

We will be setting up a group email and a group chat. Utilize this respectfully and for AP Biology purposes only (reach out to each other about class questions, concerns, advice, help etc.)

Share your academic schedules with each other. Mine is posted on the classroom door. If I am not in a class or meeting and you have a study hall and need to catch up with class or lab work, you may come to the classroom. However, you must clear this with me so I can write you a study hall pass **before** study hall begins. This is a firm policy.

Best way to reach me:

School email address is mkemp@charterarts.org

I also have a school mailbox at front office, you can leave a written message for me there

AP BIOLOGY CLASS CONTRACT

I have read and understand all the information and expectations stated in regards Mrs. Kemp's 2021-2022 AP BIOLOGY CLASS. I agree to follow and practice the policies and protocols set in place for this course. I am aware that this contract is to be signed by both student and parent/guardian with parent/guardian sharing best contact information.

This signed contract by both student and parent is due back by the end of second week of school and will be a graded assignment for quarter 1.

Date: _____

Student printed name

Student signature

Parent/Guardian signature

Parent/Guardian, please provide the best email address to use for communication?