

Dear Prospective AP Biology Student,

Welcome to AP Biology! I am so happy that you have decided to take this Advanced Placement course in Biology and I look forward to guiding you through an exciting year of learning. This is equivalent to a college level course offered to meet the needs of our more able students. The text, labs, demos and other materials are selected from those presently in use at our nation's top colleges and universities.

The class is a yearlong biology course for high school students. Emphasis is directed towards topics covered during a first year college biology course for science majors.

The goal of this course is for students to understand biology to the extent that they are able to pass the AP Biology exam given each May. Students enrolled in AP Biology are strongly urged to take the AP Exam. Students passing the exam are often given biology credit upon entering college.

Specific goals include:

- 1) The establishment of a regime of study which will cover, as thoroughly as possible, the topics presented in the text before the May exam,*
- 2) Acquisition of adequate knowledge and understanding to permit students to pass the AP Biology Exam.*

Students in the course are expected to spend at least 5 hours a week on homework. Some weeks will be more and some will be less. In order to adequately cover the material that you are responsible for in this class, we need to do some reading and exercises over summer break. We may also need to do some over winter break and spring break but if we work hard we may be able to limit (or eliminate) that work. I know that many of you are planning awesome vacations (at these times) so the pace of your reading will be self-directed. That being said, there are due dates for the summer assignment. This is geared to help you pace yourself and not wait until the last minute to complete this assignment.

I check my email regularly, but do get a lot of spam so be sure that the subject says "AP Biology" so I will be sure to read yours.

I know you have worked hard this year and deserve a bit of a break. Do keep up with the summer work though. It will make your school year considerably less stressful. See you in the fall. I am very excited about teaching and exploring the world of biology with all of you.

Regards,

V. Leonhardt

Lead Advisor Pre-Medical Pathway

(Scroll down for the summer assignment instructions)

AP Biology Summer Assignment

PART I: VERIFICATION AND ENROLLMENT LOGISTICS Due date: Sunday June 8th (no late penalty if completed before 8/15)

- Complete the [Receipt Of Summer Assignment](#) form
- Review the [Course Syllabus](#) and have your parents complete the parent verification link at the end of that document

PART II: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION Due date: Sunday, June 8th (no late penalty if completed before 8/15)

Draft an email to us following these rules:

a. Use clearly written, **full sentences**. Do not abbreviate words like you are on Twitter or texting with a friend. Use **spell check**! This is professional communication like you would have with a college professor.

My email: veronica.leonhardt@simivalleyusd.org

b. Make the **Subject:** "AP Biology: Introduction to <Insert Your Name Here>"

(Do not include the quote marks or the brackets, just the words)

c. Begin the e-mail with a **formal salutation**, like "Ms. Leonhardt,"

d. Now introduce yourself (your name) and tell me a little bit about yourself, like (note you do not have to address all of these questions but the more you do the better I'll get to know you and your strengths and weaknesses):

- What do you like to do (hobbies, sports, music, interests, etc.)?
- Do you have a job?
- Tell me a little bit about what is important to you- friends, family, pets, etc.
- What do your parents do for a living?
- Was there anything that you liked about your previous science classes?
- What was the last book you read for fun?
- What are you looking forward to the most in AP Biology? What are you most anxious about in AP biology? What motivated you to sign up? What do you expect to get out of the class? (PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS)
- Give an honest assessment of your current learning skills, your strengths, your approach to homework, your attitude towards exams, your attendance pattern, your own integrity and how you feel honestly about other students. (PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS)
- How many AP classes are you planning to take this year? (PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION)
- What are your career or college dreams?

***PART III - Introduction to Unit 1 AP Biology** Due date for all below: Thursday, August 15th

You will be using a school issues textbook during the school year but for the summer work, You will use the [Openstax AP Biology textbook online, Chapters 2-3.](#)

1. [AP Biology Summer Assignment: Unit 1 – Chemistry of Life](#) (linked)

- **(hand written assignment due first day of school)**
- This will help you review the basic content you need to have working knowledge of once we begin the new school year
- **This must be handwritten.** Do not ask me to make an exception for typing this assignment, unless your writing hand is broken, you are perfectly capable of writing. "I don't want to" or "I like typing better" are not valid excuses.
- **This will be graded based on your level of detail and effort as well as content accuracy.**
- **If your notes are not clearly labeled and organized I will not grade them. Having to sort through disorganized notes is a waste of my time.**

2. Google Forms with review questions:

- **(digital assignments due first day of school)**
- [Chapter 2 of OpenStax](#)
- [Chapter 3 of OpenStax](#)

***Part 3 is subject to the course late work policy**

Summer Assignment Checklist:

- ☐ Did you complete the Receipt Of Summer Assignment form?
- ☐ Did you review the Course Syllabus and have your parents complete the parent verification link at the end of that document?
- ☐ Did you send me your introduction email?
- ☐ Did you complete the written assignment: Unit 1 Overview: Chemistry of Life?
- ☐ Did you complete the 2 digital google forms with review questions for open stax chapter 2-3?