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**AP Biology**

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**Course Name:** AP Biology

**Prerequisite:** CP Biology

**Course Description:** AP Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course. Earning a score of 3 - 5 (depending on the college/university) on the AP Biology Exam will earn you credit at your selected college/university. This course includes topics regularly covered in a collegiate biology course for biology majors. The course is rigorous and advanced. There are many laboratory activities included within this course. Students are expected to develop a lab notebook that includes raw data and a final lab report for each lab. The aim of this course is to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. Upon completion of this course, students will have gained an understanding of how the biological concepts they learned are important to their role in society.

**Learning Objectives:**

The AP Biology Curriculum Framework includes four “Big Ideas.”

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

**Big Idea II:** Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis

**Big Idea III:** Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information ! ! ! essential to life processes.

**Big Idea IV:** Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions ! ! possess complex properties

**Science Practices:**

The Investigative Laboratory Component The laboratory component of this course is inquiry based. There are 13 AP biology lab activities. This class will conduct a minimal of 8 of those while preparing for all 13. Supplemental activities may be brought in to advance student understanding. The labs will often require more than 1 class period. Students are expected to read labs in advance to understand the skills required in each lab. The written labs are considered guided inquiry. Following the performance of these labs it is expected that:

1. The student can use models and representations to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems.
2. The student can use mathematics appropriately.
3. The student can engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the AP course.
4. The student can plan and implement data collection strategies appropriate to a particular scientific question.
5. The student can perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence.
6. The student can work with scientific explanations and theories.
7. The student is able to connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts, and representations in and across domains.

**Evaluation:** Quizzes, tests, homework assignments, labs, lab reports, presentations, projects.

**Student Expectations:**

As a student, you are expected to:

- bring all needed materials to class
- read assigned text prior to meeting with the class
- read assigned articles from journals
- attend all classes and labs
- view assigned videos

**Grading Policy:**

Major grades (summative assessments such as unit tests, lab reports, major projects): 65%

Minor grades (formative assessments such as quizzes and other assignments): 35%

**Late Work Policy:** When absent, a student with an excused absence will have one day for every day absent in which to submit missed work. Students with an unexcused absence will not be able to submit work for credit.

If a student simply does not have an assignment, the student will receive a 0 for the grade. This prepares the student for a college course, as professors do not accept late work.

It is expected that students will be present for exams. Missing an exam is unacceptable unless under extreme circumstances.

**Honor System:** Students are expected to develop their own work. Students found copying any portion of another student's assignment or any other source will receive a 0 as a grade.

**Schedule of Work: (subject to change)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – Chapters 1-7; 5 labs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – Chapters 8-18; 5 labs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – Chapters 19-21, 24-30, 34-35; 2 labs
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – Chapters 36-45; 1 lab

**Course and Classroom Expectation:**

There is much out of classroom reading that will be necessary for students to be successful in this course. There will be quizzes on both previous content and reading assignments. Your attendance is critical to your success in this course.

All work including notes from class must be kept in an organized manner. You are expected to work cooperatively with the teacher and your peers when in class. A respectful manner for all will make this a productive class. Arrive on time and be prepared in class.

All school policies according to the student handbook will be followed and enforced.

I am looking forward to rigorous work and productive results throughout the year. At any time, please see me if you are having problems with work or understanding material. Students and parents are encouraged to use school email to communicate with me at any time. Progress book will be used to post daily assignments and Google Classroom will be used for class announcements.