

February 2012

To: AP Biology Student 2012-2013

From: Dr. Gottfried (mgottfried@dadeschools.net)

Welcome.

I am very pleased that you plan on taking AP Biology. I wanted to “touch base” with you before we begin so that you could know what to expect and how to get the most out of the AP class (while you still have time to change your mind ☺). I expect you to read a lot, so if a memo like this scares you, you might want to reconsider. I mean, if you aren’t willing to read a two page memo, are you really willing to read a 1400+ page book.

Advanced Placement Biology is a college biology course taught in high school. Near the end of the year (second week in May) you will take an exam which will determine your eligibility for credit in college. The course is valuable (I think) even if you don’t plan on using it for credit.

The course has been redesigned by the College Board and this will be the first year of the “new” course. While it covers much of the same material as the previous AP Biology course, the emphasis and tone are different and we will be learning and working through the new Curriculum Framework together. The exam has also been redesigned and since you will be the first students to take the redesigned exam you will face additional challenges (the review books for the new exam haven’t been written yet).

The course covers a **vast** amount of material and thus makes heavy demands on even the best organized student. The course is organized into 4 Big Ideas and the summary document (read with a sarcastic tone) is a mere 94 pages.

Class will be conducted at the college level and you are expected to work accordingly. Your success in this class depends on **you** meeting your responsibilities. **A significant portion of the material will be covered only in readings and allowances should be made for substantial study time.** Ask kids who have taken it for advice.

Prerequisites: Honors Biology & Honors Chemistry **& my permission.**

Think about this:

ARE YOU READY FOR A UNIVERSITY LEVEL SCIENCE CLASS AT THE LEVEL TAUGHT AT UF, DUKE or COLUMBIA? AP BIOLOGY IS NOT COMMUNITY COLLEGE!

The textbook we will be using is Campbell Biology 9th Edition (if they get ordered). It is also recommended that you purchase a copy of an AP Biology Preparation book as soon as possible (although the review books may not be modified to address the new exam or match the new .curriculum for some time-maybe you should borrow the review book from someone and hold off buying one until we see what the publishers come up with.)

I believe in using computers to keep lines of communication open between students and teachers.

I have already set up a web page for next year’s class-

<http://mdgottfried.net/apagenda/apagenda2012-2013.html> where you can find most everything useful.

If you don’t want to type the whole name, there is a link on my main index page, <http://mdgottfried.net>

There is a link to the College Board’s Curriculum Framework (the 94 page document) on that web page.

There is also an e-mail list. If you have e-mail you NEED to sign up for the list as soon as possible by e-mailing:

<mailto:DrG-APBio-2012-13@yahoogroups.com> directly or clicking the link on the class web-page.

If you don't have e-mail, you need to get an account as soon as possible. There are free e-mail accounts available at <http://www.yahoo.com>, or www.gmail.com, www.hotmail.com etc.

To overcome some of the time constraints, and at the advice of previous years AP Biology classes, there **will be** a summer assignment. While all the details of the assignment haven't been worked out yet, and some will depend on specifics of the redesigned exam that haven't been released yet, it will consist of at least two parts, one reading the book "Your Inner Fish" and answering some questions, and a multiple choice pre-test to evaluate your prior knowledge.

If you are entering into AP Biology from regular science classes there may be additional summer work to get your skills and background knowledge up to the levels needed for this rigorous class.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to stop by and chat or e-mail me at mgottfried@dadeschools.net

Dr. Gottfried