



Dear Future AP Biology Student:

Congratulations on accepting the challenge of enrolling in AP Biology for the 2016-2017 school year. AP Biology is a fast-paced, college level, lab course for biology majors. AP Biology is equivalent to two semesters of college level biology.

As part of the lab requirement for AP Biology, **students must have their lunch period scheduled immediately after or before their AP Biology class**. Half of the lunch period will be used for extended lab time on lab days. If your schedule does not reflect the required lunch period, please see your counselor as soon as possible to correct this scheduling error.

So, what does it take to be successful in AP Biology? What I have found through the years is that my top students meet the following criteria:

- Students must have a strong background in Chemistry. Some have even completed AP Chemistry as a junior. This does not mean that you won't be successful if you haven't taken AP Chemistry. But, you might have to review chemistry on your own or get extra help after school in order to be successful.
- Another indicator of success is the level of biology and chemistry you were in during your freshman and sophomore years. The most successful students have had a good understanding of Honors Biology concepts and earned an "A" or "B" in Honors Biology. Students who earned an "A" in Biology (S) will need to be very diligent concerning improvement of study and reading skills. This is not to say that a "B" or a "C" student in Biology (S) can't be successful. The "B" or "C" students will need to put in extra study time, be willing to work with me after school, or be willing to hire a private tutor in order to be successful.
- General ability in math classes is also a good indicator of success in AP Biology. The new AP Biology exam includes a section in which students must become competent in several statistical calculations (Chi square analysis problems, Hardy-Weinberg problems, probability problems, etc.). Students will be provided with a four-function calculator which includes a square root function during the AP Biology exam. Students will need to work with exponents (add, subtract, multiply and divide) without the use of a graphing calculator.
- Successful students also **have good attendance**, work well **independently** and in a group, possess **strong work habits**, and have excellent reading and writing skills.
- And finally, the most successful students concentrate on their **learning** rather than on their grade. Although you might be an "A" or "B" student, you are now enrolled in a college level course with much higher standards than even your typical honors class in high school.

If you possess the above traits, you will do well in AP Biology. If you are lacking in any of these traits, you can succeed if you are willing to acknowledge your weaknesses, work hard to improve, seek extra help from your teacher, **and successfully complete the AP Biology Success Camp** being offered this summer. The AP Biology Success Camp is open to all students enrolled in AP Biology for the 2016-17 school year.

Students who do not attend the AP Biology Success Camp will need to check out a textbook (Principle of Life) along with a reading guide packet (the packet will be placed in your textbook), read Chapter 1, Chapter 2 and complete the reading guides (all parts unless otherwise indicated). All answers should be ***hand-written using complete sentences and complete thoughts***. Your answers should be detailed yet concise. **Your work is due at the start of your first day of class**. If you cannot or choose not to complete the summer assignment and turn it in **on time**, you might want to rethink your enrollment in AP Biology.

If you have any questions concerning the AP Biology course, AP Biology Success Camp, or the AP Biology summer assignment, please feel free to email me at lpierce@lphs.org.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Pierce





AP Biology Success Camp

Course Description: Students will review biology and chemistry topics in preparation for future success in AP Biology. Topics covered will include: Study Skills Required for Success in AP Biology, An Introduction to Inquiry and Experimental Design, The AP Biology Lab Presentation, Mastering the AP Biology Exam, A Review of Microscopes, Biochemistry Basics, and Cellular Biology. Attendance and completion is **highly recommended** for students who were not enrolled in Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry; Junior or senior status and enrollment in AP Biology for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year

Teacher: Mrs. Lesley Pierce
lpierce@lphs.org
(630) 529-1005

Dates: July 11 – 13, 2016 (Monday – Wednesday)

Times: 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Location: West Campus; Room 262

Cost: \$27

