APBiology Syllabus

Teacher: Paul Geary

Best way to reach me: paul.geary@rcsdk12.org

Class website:

* For summer work and most class assignments will be posted in our AP Biology Google Classroom.
* For list of assignment due dates and resources go to http://www.rcsdk12.org//Domain/5368, which is under my name on the SOTA website

Course Overview

In AP Biology, an emphasis is on students making connections between the big ideas within the AP Biology Curriculum Framework. I teach the equivalent of an introductory college-‐level biology course, and it is designed to prepare students for the AP Biology Exam.

Lab techniques are learned through researching journal papers, hands-on labs which make up at least 25% of instructional time. Labs emphasize development and testing of the hypothesis, collection, analysis and presentation of data, as well as discussion of results to discover unanswered questions about the particular topics addressed. A minimum of two labs in each big idea will be conducted. Students are required to report on all laboratory investigations. The student-directed and inquiry-based laboratory investigations used throughout the course enable students to apply the seven science practices as defined in the Curriculum Framework.

**Materials**

AP Biology (Mader), 11th Edition - McGraw Hill Higher Education

College ruled composition notebook

Review book (details to will be provided)

Folder and/or notebook to organize class handouts

Course Components

**READINGS:** Everyday students should be reading on their own to stay ahead of the classwork and anticipate questions or problem areas. Reading will include textbook/ journal articles. Students are provided with guided reading questions and are required to take notes and definitions which they keep in a journal.

**FLIPPED CLASSROOM:** Students are provided with a verity of online media resources from the class website in which they read or view online. For an assessment students take notes on what they have learned and become part of a discussion or debate the next day. Often this media becomes part of the writing topic.

**ACTIVITY/LABS:** Some activities are expected to be performed outside of class time & students are expected to hand in lab reports for evidence of completion.

**DISSCUSSIONS and DEBATES:** Often students are engaged in a discussion in which they are given time to prepare with another student. Student discuss thought provoking questions in which the work to tie in concept to the AP Biology big ideas or other learning objectives.

**ASSESSMENT:** A variety of weekly assessments are used throughout the course. Some assessments will be a representation of the actual AP Exam. There will also be a great deal of writing assignments to assess the student’s ability to interpret information, come up with examples, synthesize information in their own words and tie information back to the AP Biology big ideas and learning objectives.

**Grading**

* Tests/Quizzes (every week) 40%
* Labs: Lab Work 25%
* Class work/Projects/ Online work 20%

Class participation

* Homework: 15%

\*Late work will automatically have 30% deducted after due date.

\*Students and parents will find the most up to date student grade/attendance information on Parent Connect. Please help us by regularly checking this service.

**School Culture and Classroom Climate**

**1. BE**

Be on time (in the classroom when the bell rings)

Be prepared (ready with a pen or pencil, following directions)

Be engaged (participating in the following of directions, class activities, work and discussions)

Any student entering the classroom after the tardy bell is required to complete the following procedure:

* Sign the classroom tardy sheet upon entering.
* Sit in their assigned seat.
* See the teacher during the last several minutes of class.
* The teacher will use the classroom discipline plan to enforce the tardy policy by using the hierarchy portion and moving down the hierarchy if tardy behavior continues:

**Consequences:**

* + First tardy - warning, conference with student.
  + Second tardy – conference with student, parent is contacted.
  + Third tardy – lunch detention, conference with student, parent contacted.
  + Fourth tardy – after school detention, conference with student, parent conference.
  + Fifth tardy – (on-line) referral to administrator for further consequence.

**2. Follow the SOTA dress code.**

NO hats, hoods, spaghetti straps, etc. Student in violation of the schools dress code will be sent to their administrator.

**3. Have cell phones & electronics put away.**

Cellphone, ear bud, headphone, IPod, etc. use is not permitted in the classroom.

Violations of this policy will result in the following:

### 1. The student will be sent to the Administrator.

### 2. The cell phone will be confiscated.

### 3. The Administrator will contact the parent/guardian.

### 4. The Administrator will issue a Saturday Detention to the student.

### 5. The cell phone will be returned to the student upon successful completion of the Saturday Detention.

**Please Note: Failure to report to Saturday Detention will result in an in-school suspension assignment.**

**4. Respect the educational process.**

NO bullying, profanity, food, personal grooming, disrespectful behavior, etc.

Students who violate the class expectations will…

1. be reminded of expectations and warned.

2. be asked to move seat and/or removed from classroom

3. receive a call home

4. receive a referral and/or lunch detention

**Extra Help**

I am always willing to help students but I am not always available. I am available each day in A234 periods 1 and 9. I will post my schedule so students can seek extra help in my off periods. I am also available after school on Tuesdays and if a student request help during another time after school, I can usually accommodate that request.

**Class Website and Parent Connect**

Class assignments, homework, files and more information go to <http://secondary.rcsdk12.org/sota>. Look for my name under teacher tab.

Students and parents will also find the most up to date student grade/attendance information on Parent CONNECT <https://parentconnect.rcsdk12.org/>

**Dates to Remember**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tuesday, September 19 | Curriculum Night | 6:30 – 8:30 PM |
|  |  |  |
| Thursday, October 12 | Parent/Teacher Conference – SOTA/Secondary | 5:00 – 7:00 PM |
| Friday November 10 | End of marking period 1 |  |
| Friday January 26 | End of marking period 2 |  |
| Friday, February 2 | Parent/Teacher Conferences – SOTA/Secondary | 12:30-2:30 PM |
| Thursday, March 8 | Parent/Teacher Conferences – SOTA/Secondary | 5:00 – 7:00 PM |
| Friday, April 13 | End of marking period 3 |  |
| Monday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 12 – Friday, June 22 | Regents and Local Exams |  |

**AP BIOLOGY 4 Big Ideas**

**Big Idea 1: Evolution**  
The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.

**Big Idea 2: Cellular Processes: Energy and Communication**  
Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.

**Big Idea 3: Genetics and Information Transfer**  
Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes.

**Big Idea 4: Interactions**  
Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

**\*\*\*Return to AP Biology A234\*\*\***

**Return by Friday 9/8/2017**

***Please complete the follow, separate, and return with your child for their first 100% homework grade***

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent email address (please include)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone (please note if I can text you)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I participate in several grants and work with a partnership with the University of Rochester I may be requested to video tape and/or photograph your child for reasons pertaining to education and/or documentation. Student information, including images of your child, can be shared without your consent. If you are concerned about protecting the privacy of your Rochester City School District student please fill out the attached form and return with your student.

STUDENT OPT-OUT FORM found at <https://www.rcsdk12.org/Page/1131>