

AP Biology Summer Assignment and Requirements 2018-2019

WELCOME TO AP BIOLOGY! I hope you are looking forward to an exciting semester. Since this is a college level course, it will be fast paced and challenging, as well as demanding a great deal of time both in and out of the classroom. As this course must be completed in one semester, our class will primarily operate as a 'flipped classroom'. This essentially means that class time is devoted to activities and labs that require application and analytical skills. This means you must view 'lecture' videos, as well as reading and studying Power Points, Prezi presentations and chapters from your book, while at home. In addition, these assignments & viewings must be done 'ahead' and PRIOR to the class activities to be successful in the class. For more information, please be sure to review the class syllabus on my blog at www.phillipsscientificmethods.weebly.com. If you're up to the challenge (and I hope you are!), get started by completing the following assignment before the beginning of the school year. This assignment is due the first day of school and will count as your first grade. All answers for the assignments must be handwritten, and your work must **ALWAYS** be your own! There will also be a QUIZ over the 'Intro to Statistics' summer assignment as well as Chapters 1-4 from the 8th edition Campbell Biology textbook during the first week of school (likely the 3rd day of class). Chapters 1-4 are concepts that were covered in first year biology and chemistry classes: Themes of Biology; Scientific Inquiry; Chemical Context of Life; Water and Life. It is advised that you review these concepts over the summer. Questions for these chapters will be given the first day of school and will also be accessible on my blog before school starts. They will be due on the 3rd day of school (the day of the quiz).

Before you get started on the Summer Assignment, you need to do several things:

1- Most students register for an online account for our book during the summer: 'Campbell Biology' (publisher is Pearson). An electronic text is one of the many resources the site offers. Last year, we used the 8th edition, but the county has recently adopted the 11th edition, which will be issued to each student in the fall. I'm not sure when the 11th edition will be available for access, but using the 8th edition over the summer is perfectly fine, as it is very similar to the 11th edition. Regardless of which version is available for access this summer, **YOU MUST EMAIL ME** at susan.phillips@cobbk12.org **between 5/21/18 and 6/15/18 (or after 7/23/18) to request your student code for accessing the Pearson website. I will not be checking my email on a regular basis between 6/16-7/22.** However, if you find yourself 'caught' between the dates I am available, there is another excellent (free!) online AP text you can use for the time being: <https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-ap-courses>. I really like this site and plan to use it more often next year.

a. I **HIGHLY** recommend that you purchase the latest version of the 'AP Biology Test Prep Series' paperback book by Pearson Education, as I only have ONE class set for all classes and you will not be permitted to take them home. **Make sure the edition is 2013 or later.** You can find them on Amazon, as well as several other places.

2- Go to my blog www.phillipsscientificmethods.weebly.com and click on AP Biology (it may still say '2017-18', but I will change that sometime over the summer). Go to the right hand column, under the heading 'Useful Links/Apps', and **sign up for Remind (beginning 5/21/18).**

3- Go to www.collegeboard.org & **register for an account.** Go over the 'Course Descriptors', 'Formulas Sheet', etc. for AP Biology and get very familiar with the standards and requirements for this course.

4- You must purchase (at least) **3 'composition notebooks'** (google it and refer to 'Images' to see a picture of the type of notebook required) for this course, along with a **large 3 ring binder** (2+ inches). One composition notebook will be for lab data and problem solving (as well as a few virtual assignments). Another comp notebook is for the "*Henrietta Lacks*" book assignment (explained in #3, below) and I'll explain the need for the 3rd one when school starts. Graph paper is also required, along with pencils, black pens, red pen. A highlighter is recommended.

The assignment is as follows:

1. **Introduction to Statistics-** [click here](#) (you may have to download it from my blog for the links to work): The College Board AP Biology Exam requires that you are proficient in data & statistical analysis. The Exam and Standards were revised in 2013 and there are many questions integrated with statistics, as well as other mathematical equations. You should look over the [AP Biology Formula Sheet](#) on the College Board website (there is also a link on my blog). It is most challenging to master the depth of biology content required for this course in one semester (it is the equivalent of a 2 semester college course), hence it is essential to get started on understanding and applying some of the mathematical concepts and equations prior to the start of the course. This assignment is due on the **FIRST DAY** of the semester. **This material will also be on the first quiz, given the first week of the semester.** (*NOTE- If you cannot access the statistics assignment from the above link, it is on my blog).

2. Review Chapters 1-4 (8th edition) or Chapters 1-3 (11th edition). Questions will be given to you on the 1st day of class and will be due the 3rd day of class (quiz day). They will also be accessible on my blog before school begins, if you would like to get a head start. There will be no class time for reviewing the information from these chapters, but you must apply these concepts throughout the course (ex- hydrogen bonding, polarity, specific heat of water, natural selection, etc.).

3. While not required, some of you may want to begin the semester book project. Last year, it was recommended by many science teachers that students read the book: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This book is extremely relevant to our course, so we will explore it further. **The first installment of questions is due on Friday, August 16, which is the 2nd full week of school.** Some of you may want to get a 'head start' on this. You must follow the appropriate guidelines **EXACTLY, as outlined in the link on my blog.** All installments will be averaged as a **test grade** and each installment (there are 4) is due monthly (schedule TBA). A hard copy of the guidelines will also be available in the plastic bin outside my door during the last few days of this school year. FYI: I have around 12 copies of the book (first come, first serve) if you would like to stop by my room (515) before the current school year is over and check one out. The paperback is available for purchase on Amazon, as well as other sites. Even if you decide to wait and start the book once school starts in the fall, you **NEED TO ATTAIN A COPY PRIOR TO THE 1st DAY OF SCHOOL** in order to complete the 1st installment on time.

4. I will periodically check my school email between 6/16 - 7/22, but likely not very often. Therefore, if you have any questions, it would be in your best interest to complete the assignments earlier in the summer, rather than later, as it may be a week or more before I get back with you.

I hope you enjoy the summer and I really do look forward to having you in class next year!