

WELCOME TO AP BIOLOGY!!!!

I am looking forward to a fast paced, lab filled, analytical year of biology. To achieve this our class time will be primarily spent gathering and analyzing data. This will include discussions, data collection, computer work, and frequent WRITTEN analysis of it all. To spend as little class time as possible on lecture you will be expected to read and digest the text at home, with support from a variety of video sources, and come to classes with questions. Please let me know TODAY if you do not have a computer with internet ability at home if you have not already told me, you may give me a note, or speak to me about it after class.

EXPECTATIONS/SUPPLIES: this is on your summer assignment

GETTING HELP! kmorales@srcs.org

You have all been students for at least 11 years and if you want to learn biology, and get a good grade, I expect that you do the work that is asked of you. The most important part of this is coming to class prepared with questions about what you do not understand. I don't want to hear, "all of it." You need to have specific questions. I will always be in my classroom at 7:45 before class for first period or right after 7th period

CHEATING: To me cheating is when you do not do the work for yourself. Going on the internet and COPYING information from another source and not crediting it is cheating. I understand that there is a lot on the internet. USE IT as a resource, just don't copy. Use the videos and the plethora of resources that you can find, but make sure what you turn in is **original**.

GRADING:

Everything is worth points. Zeroes are very harmful to your grade, avoid them like the plague. I use Aeries for your grades. I recommend each time I mention I have posted grades that you go and check to make sure I didn't make a mistake...

- MAJORS – Tests, quizzes, labs – 60%
- MINORS/HOMEWORK – Activities, small labs, reading guides, current events, mastering – 20%
- FINAL EXAM – 20% - will mimic the AP exam in format first semester.

late work: avoid it (HW - you can get 50% credit on some late HW, none on others), Labs are accepted up until I grade them, then I don't take them anymore. Generally 10% off per day late. Minors – you will get credit for completion, but not full credit. This class ends in June, not in May, so expect to have a second semester final and work after the exam.

HOMEWORK

- All chapter reading must be documented in your handwriting somehow. The reading guides will be posted on canvas.
- Before some labs you will need to do pre-lab work at home.
- I will generally recommend the Bozeman Biology website for videos, but Crash Course, Kahn Academy, and others are fine.

THE AP EXAM:

The biology exam has 2 sections. Part one is 90 minutes and has 63 multiple choice questions and 6 grid-in numeric questions. Each MC question has 4 possible answers. The grid-in questions require that you enter a numeric answer (you may use a calculator and will be provided with a formula page). The MC questions ARE NOT factually based, but more application. You are not penalized for guessing. Part two, also 90 minutes, has 2 long response (one will be lab based) and 6 short response questions. There is a lot of reading on the test so we will be practicing our reading carefully skills. Do not spend time or money on OLD test prep books. Make sure you get one for the new exam (new in 2012). The one I recommend is Pearson biology by Holtzclaw and Holtzclaw **9th edition**

CONTENT:

Biology is a huge topic which has been added to a lot since I was in college. There is no way that we can cover all of biology in this class. The new course has 4 big ideas: evolution, interactions, energy, and information. Below are the units that we will cover in order

1. Evolution
2. Biochemistry
3. Cells
4. Cell energetics
5. Mendelian genetics
6. Molecular genetics
7. Physiology (plant and animal)
8. Ecology

COMMUNICATION:

I am very reachable by email (kmorales@srcs.org). Please come in during advisory!!! I will be in my room most days at lunch for AP Bio help. We will also use the REMIND app, and you can use the contact feature on my website, www.MoralesBiology.com, to reach me.

WEBSITE

In addition to the class website, I will be using Canvas this year. I will post all handouts on there (I am going to try to not make copies unless requested). But if you lose copies this is where you can get it. I will also keep a calendar on Canvas and post links to resources.

I am uncertain if I will keep my gradebook on canvas or aeries, but either way, you will be able to see it.

Kent Morales

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