

May 29, 2019

Dear AP Biology Student,

I am excited to have you in my AP Biology class for the 2019/2020 school year. In glancing at the class roster, we have an excellent group of students that have prepared for a challenging and fruitful year of learning.

The AP Biology course is organized around four Big Ideas:

- (1) The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
- (2) Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- (3) Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes.
- (4) Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

The objectives of the course are for each student to:

- develop a conceptual framework for biology,
- appreciate the science process,
- solve biology problems using the scientific method,
- apply biological knowledge and critical thinking to societal concerns and other aspects of life that will affect them every day,
- understand the expectations of a prototypical college biology class.

Generally, the AP Biology class at Yorktown High School is an in-depth continuation of the topics that you explored in your first year of biology and in elective courses like anatomy & physiology and botany & zoology.

The main course book, *Biology in Focus*, will be handed out to students on the first day of class and will be part of the course fees. In order to be prepared for the first day of class, students need to obtain the Sean Carroll course book below from any online source.

1. Carroll, Sean B. *Into the Jungle—Great Adventures in the Search for Evolution*. 2009, Pearson Benjamin Cummings.  
Amazon (new) ~\$30.00                  Amazon (used) ~\$5.00

Also, all AP Biology students need to read the first two chapters of *Into the Jungle* and answer the questions at the end of the each chapter and submit them as an attachment through e-mail (see below). This should be completed before the first day of school.

Have a great summer! I look forward to seeing you in AP Bio class in the Fall. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at [mwilhelm@yorktown.k12.in.us](mailto:mwilhelm@yorktown.k12.in.us).

Sincerely,

Mr. Mike Wilhelm