

2024-2025 Summer Assignment & Welcome Letter



AP/HUBiology – Mrs. Christine Biggins

AP (Advanced Placement) Biology
HU (Harrisburg University) College in the High School

This summer....continue to be curious about life, nature, and how living and nonliving things interact. Nothing is required other than to read through this handout.

- Over the summer, I would just like you to continue to READ and listen to the news. Fact check your sources and just pay attention to the science that is happening all around us every single day. If you are curious about something, dig a bit further, ask questions, search for answers.
- WATCH science fiction movies or shows/movies related to science. It is always interesting to make connections. I know one of my favorites is Jurassic Park! I also like Sci Show on YouTube. It will make many things we discuss in class make more sense.
- ENGAGE: Get outside! Take a walk, a hike, use the Gettysburg NPS site to explore some Biology in our own national park.
<https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/nature/index.htm>

Some apps that I love and you can check out if you want !

- o *Cornell Merlin Bird ID – Identify the birds you see or hear; a free global bird guide with photos, sounds, maps and more.*
- o *Seek – Seek by iNaturalist is a free app that uses image recognition technology to identify plants, animals, and fungi in your area. The app can identify species from order to family, genus, and species, and has consistently high accuracy across all photo quality tiers.*

When we begin class in August you will have the opportunity to learn more about the two pathways to earning college credits. Please read this carefully, share this information with your parents and if you have any questions - please email me cbiggins@gasd-pa.org

This course is offered as either Advanced Placement or College in the High School. It is a ONE semester course because students are required to have one semester of Biology and proficiency on the Biology Keystone Exam before entering the course. Students have the option of taking the AP Biology Exam in May (approx ~\$97) to earn college credits and/or doing it as a dual enrollment through Harrisburg University- and with a C or better can earn 4 college credits (approx ~\$400). Both options provide a weighted course GPA for GAHS. The course assignments, exams, labs, etc are all the same. This summer, students can begin to research colleges to see what scores they award credit for on AP Exams and if they accept dual enrollment credits. Many higher education institutions have a "transfer tool" that will help you with this task.

Book suggestions from another AP Biology teacher - Not required!

Survival of the Sickest by Sharon Moalem

Inheritance by Sharon Moalem

Your Inner Fish by Neil Shubin

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert

The Serengeti Rules by Sean B Carroll

Endless Forms Most Beautiful by Sean B Carroll

The Making of the Fittest by Sean B Carroll

The Story of Life by Sean B Carroll

The Emperor of All Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee

The Gene by Siddhartha Mukherjee

I Contain Multitudes by Ed Yong

She Has Her Mother's Laugh by Carl Zimmer

A Crack in Creation by Jennifer Doudna & Samuel Sternberg

A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived by Adam Rutherford

Improbable Destinies by Jonathan Losos

The Universe Within by Neil Shubin

Darwin's Ghost: The Origin of Species Updated by Steve Jones

The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben

The Breakthrough by Charles Graeber

Pandora's Lab by Paul A Offit

Genome by Matt Ridley