



# 9th grade Biology 2025-2026 Instructional Plan

*Created on August 6, 2025*

## **Contact Information**

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## **WHAT IS PRE-AP?**

Pre-AP features grade-level instruction intended to give all students the opportunity for growth. It offers a focused framework, instructional support, model lessons, and classroom assessments while focusing on skills that students will need to succeed in AP courses, college, and careers.

Shared principles:

- **Close Observation and Analysis:** Students carefully observe a data set, text, image, or problem--capturing relevant details before attempting to explain, analyze, or evaluate.
- **Evidence-Based Writing:** Students learn to craft precise sentences before progressing to longer forms of writing—applying these skills as they craft claims, develop arguments, and provide explanations.
- **Higher-Order Questioning:** Students engage with questions that are elevated beyond simple recall as they make predictions, synthesize, evaluate, and compare--learning that deep questions lead to deeper understanding.
- **Academic Conversation:** Students become active participants in their own learning through frequent opportunities to compare, critique, debate, and build upon others' ideas--recognizing that all voices, including their own, deserve to be heard.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Pre-AP science areas of focus are vertically aligned to the science practices embedded in high school and college courses, including AP. This gives students multiple opportunities to think and work like scientists as they develop and strengthen these disciplinary reasoning skills throughout their education in the sciences:

- **Emphasis on analytical reading and writing:** Students engage in analytical reading and writing to gain, retain, and apply scientific knowledge and to carry out scientific argumentation.
- **Strategic use of mathematics:** Students use mathematics strategically in order to understand and express quantitative aspects of biology, to record and interpret experimental data, and to solve problems.
- **Attention to modeling:** Students go beyond labeling diagrams to creating, revising, and using models to explain key patterns, interactions, and relationships in biological systems.

## **COURSE ACTIVITIES**

Throughout the year, students will address these 4 big ideas across all units:

- The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
- Growth and reproduction in biological systems are dependent upon the cycling of matter and the transformation of energy.
- Biological systems, occurring at various scales, respond and adapt to stimuli in order to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- Genetic mechanisms are essential to maintaining biological systems.

Below you will find descriptions of the most common activities that students will participate in during the course of each semester:

- Formal and Informal Labs
- Note taking
- Assessments-exams, performance tasks, projects

## **GRADES - Click here for → [YWLA Grading Policy](#)**

Major (Test, Projects, Writing)	60%
Minor (Notes, Daily Work)	40%

## **Classroom Resources**

- PreAP Biology Course Teacher Resources
- PreAP Biology Course Student Resources
- Google Classroom
- Teacher created materials

## **Exam Date**

**STAAR test will be Tuesday, April 21, 2026**

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS**

- Unit 1: Ecological Systems
- Unit 2: Evolution
- Unit 3: Cellular Systems
- Unit 4: Genetics

## **Optional Materials/Resources**

- **Khan Academy**



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Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

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