AP Biology 2026-2027
Course Information and Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Biology!

Course Information

AP Biology is a vigorous, yet manageable and rewarding class. This course is designed to meet the curriculum expectations of the College Board, which is the governing board that designs the AP academic programs in a variety of subjects, to mirror introductory college-level courses. AP tests are administered in May and scored on a scale of 1-5. Many colleges will give college credit for scores of 3 or higher!

The AP Biology Curriculum is structured around eight units of study:

Unit 1	**Chemistry of Life**
Unit 2	**Cell Structure and Function**
Unit 3	**Cellular Energetics**
Unit 4	**Cell Communication and Cell Cycle**
Unit 5	**Heredity**
Unit 6	**Gene Expression and Regulation**
Unit 7	**Natural Selection**
Unit 8	**Ecology**

Expectations

In order to be successful in this course and be well prepared for the AP Biology exam, you will need to be **diligent and organized**. This course will require hard work inside and outside of class. That being said, do not be intimidated! Being successful in this class will be a learning process that we will work through together. If you want to succeed you will, and I will provide you with all the tools and support you need in order to do so.

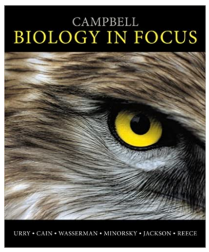
Summer Work

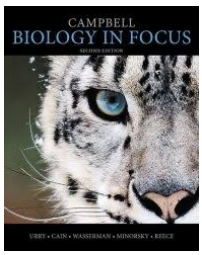
We will have the months of September-April to complete the curriculum prior to the AP test in early May. In order to meet the demands of the curriculum, we must dive into our learning over the summer months. This summer assignment does require some work and thought, but don't worry, you will still have time to relax and enjoy the summer days. The primary goal of summer work is to keep your brains churning (neurons firing!) and to review some essential concepts that will serve as a foundation of learning throughout the AP Biology course.

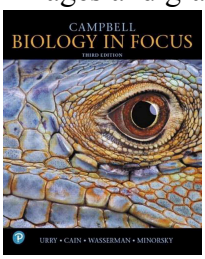
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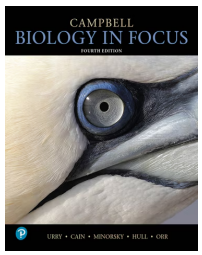
Summer Assignment 1: Purchase a textbook.

Campbell Biology in Focus (any edition). This is a pared-down version of the classic Biology textbook, "Campbell Biology", which most colleges and universities use. It was written specifically for the AP Biology course and therefore excludes some content in the original Campbell Biology Text books. The images and graphics in this book are phenomenal!









Summer assignment 2: Chapter 2 in textbook- The Chemical Context of Life.

- **Read** Chapter 2, The Chemical Context of Life, in the textbook (~p.22-41 *depending on the edition you have*). **Active reading is a MUST!!! The info in this textbook is very dense, therefore I highly suggest highlighting, underling and writing notes in the margins! Also, do NOT ignore the diagrams/images- they will become extremely helpful for understanding and remembering the content!
- **Watch** the 21 minute youtube video "Unit 1- Structure of Water and Hydrogen Bonding" (posted on google classroom and linked here.)
- **Answer questions** on Chapter 2. These will be posted in a separate document on Google Classroom. The questions will be due the first day of class.

****There will be a QUIZ on this chapter during our second class. A study guide will be provided on Google Classroom in late August****

Summer assignment 3: Book- "What is Life?: Five Great Ideas in Biology."

This short book (143 pages) should be read at a leisurely pace throughout the summer. Maybe read a little each night, take it to the beach, read it outside in the shade of a tree on a nice day. About the book: "*The renowned biologist Paul Nurse has spent his career revealing how living cells work. In What Is Life?, he takes up the challenge of describing what it means to be alive in a way that every reader can understand. It is a shared journey of discovery; step-by-step Nurse illuminates five great ideas that underpin biology—the Cell, the Gene, Evolution by Natural Selection, Life as Chemistry, and Life as Information.*"

Reading questions will be on a separate document that will be posted on Google Classroom and will be due the first day of class.

