

Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

North Salem University  
230 June Road  
North Salem, NY 10560

Dear parents,

This past spring you discussed and planned with your child their class schedule for this year. One of the higher academic classes you selected was Advanced Placement Biology. AP courses are considered college level classes taken during high school and consequently provide a significant challenge to the motivated student. Your child will be reading from a college level textbook, designing and performing sophisticated experiments, taking very challenging tests, and thinking critically about how biology connects to them and the world they live in.

At North Salem University, I have designed a laboratory-intense, inquiry-based, hands-on course because I believe that science is not a noun, but a verb. These labs will enrich the course and provide your child with the opportunity to explore each topic in greater depth. However, these activities do take up a lot of class time and so will be incorporating a style of learning that may be a little different than what your child may be familiar with. For some of the time, our classroom will be "flipped", meaning your child will watch videos, animations, movies, podcasts and lectures while completing their AP Biology Interactive Guided Reading Packets and preparing their outlines for the "possible" FRQ's that will appear on their next test at home (*what they might normally do in class*), then spend class time asking questions, developing hypothesis, designing and performing complex experiments in lab. This will give me the opportunity to assist your child with their experimental designs, data analysis or anything else they are having trouble with, as well as incorporate what research shows to be a very effective method of teaching and learning.

The keys to success in this class are to stay ahead of the material and to be an active participant in class and laboratory activities. Students will also need to be excellent managers of their time as this course will make heavy demands on both their time and energy. During the first week of school I will be talking to your child about their schedule – for most juniors, AP Biology and AP English is doable. I do not recommend taking AP Biology and AP History as both classes require a lot of work outside of the classroom.

If you want to check up and see what's happening in class, please visit the AP Biology page on my website at [colleascorner.weebly.com](http://colleascorner.weebly.com). Here I post all class assignments, chapter resources and project/lab due dates. I will provide your child with a wealth of resources to support them in their quest to conquer this challenging class. Their task is to figure out which of my resources works best for their style of learning.

AP Biology is a demanding course, but I am confident that with our support your child **WILL** have a successful year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Your partner in academic excellence,

Daniel J. Collea  
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