

June 7, 2021

North Salem University
230 June Road
North Salem, NY 10560

Greetings AP Biology student and WELCOME to North Salem University,

This past Spring you discussed and planned with your parents and guidance counselor your class schedule for next 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. You will be reading from a college level textbook, designing and performing sophisticated experiments, writing detailed lab reports, taking very challenging tests, all while thinking critically about how biology connects to you and the world you 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 – it is something you DO. These labs will enrich the course and provide you with the opportunity to explore each topic in greater depth. However, these activities do take up a lot of class time and so this year you will be experiencing a style of learning that may be a little different than what you may be familiar with. For some of the time, our classroom will be "flipped", meaning you will watch videos, animations, movies, podcasts and lectures while completing your AP Biology Interactive Guided Reading Packets, writing detailed lab reports and preparing your outlines for the “possible” Free Response Questions or FRQs that will appear on your next test at home (*what you might normally do in class*), then spend class time asking questions, developing hypothesis, designing and performing complex experiments in the lab. This will give me the opportunity to assist you with your experimental designs, data collection, data presentation, data analysis or anything else you 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. You will also need excellent time management skills as this course will make heavy demands on both your time and energy. To help us stay on track and keep your mind sharp over the summer months I have developed the Summer Assignment included in this packet. This assignment includes your AP Biology textbook, a Course Description and the Summer Assignment Instructions which includes Interactive Guided Reading Packets for Chapters 1-5. Please read everything carefully before you begin. You will also be asked to read a few related chapters by one of my favorite authors, Bill Bryson and his book *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. All of this information can be found on the AP Biology page on my website at colleascorner.weebly.com (and posted on our AP Biology 2021 Google Classroom). Collea’s Corner is where I post all class assignments, chapter resources and project/lab due dates. I will provide you with a wealth of resources to support you in your quest to conquer this very interesting and challenging class. Your task during the summer and first quarter is to figure out which of my resources works best for your style of learning. Assignment Instructions.

AP Biology is a demanding course, but I am confident that a strong work ethic coupled with excellent time management skills and support from myself and your parents, you **WILL** have a successful year.

Your partner in academic excellence,

Mr. Collea
AP Biology Instructor
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