

Welcome to the exciting, challenging and rewarding course known as AP Biology. AP Biology will engage you and encourage you to expand your knowledge of biology and world that surrounds you. This course is a college level course that culminates in an AP exam in May. In order to successfully prepare for the exam, you will be responsible for a summer assignment.

We will be approaching learning this year using a "flipped classroom".  So what is a "flipped classroom"? A basic definition of a flipped classroom is that most of the lecture material is taught as homework (typically in the form of short videos and reading assignments) while the hands on learning, practice problems, laboratories and other activities are done during class time. **You will need internet access for this class.** The summer assignment videos will be a review of basic chemistry with questions embedded throughout the assignments. You will be responsible to learn the material and if at any time you are struggling with the information, you can contact me through email or remind, or send a comment through the video. Remember that as you are watching the videos, you can pause and/or rewatch to assist you in learning the material. Within the first week of the 2018-2019 school year, you will be given an assessment that will count as a test grade for first quarter.

What do you need to do?

Step 1: Sign up for an Edpuzzle account- make sure your username includes both your first and last name

Step 2: Both you and your parent/guardian need to read and sign the syllabus

Step 3: Sign up for a Google Classroom account (code: p4i12o ) and complete the survey by July 1, 2018

Step 4: Sign up for a remind101 account (text 81010 with code @swissapbio)

Step 5: Create your own calendar of due dates/assignments to help you stay organized!

If you misplace or need copies of the syllabus or any course material, check the google classroom. Any questions, feel free to email me aswiss@wfsd.k12.ny.us.

**AP Biology Syllabus 2018-2019**

Welcome to AP Biology! My name is Ms. Swiss and I am very excited to delve into the biosphere with you. AP Biology is rewarding and challenging at the same time. This is a college level course with college level assignments. As an educator my goal for my students is to create and encourage lifelong learners. Throughout the year, I hope to enlighten, engage and excite you about Biology so that you can deepen your understanding the living world we are a part of!

**Course Policies:**

**Flipped Classroom Assignments**

Due to the intense nature of the course, there will be homework every night throughout the school year. There is a large amount of material to cover in such a short time and therefore our classroom will utilize a flipped classroom approach. Students will watch lecture assignments for homework, while taking notes either via a note packet or by other means such as Cornell Notes. Students will be expected to complete assignments before class so that during class time, they are prepared for the lab assignments as well as other course work. As the teacher, I will be assessing the homework assignments and assigning a grade to the homework- this allows me to not only guide my lessons toward student needs but also differentiate instruction based on levels of understanding. The responsibility for completing this work lies within the student- preparing the student for college. Course material remains active ensuring students can re-visit and re-watch lessons in order to study for exams.

**Supplies: Students are asked to bring the following supplies to school every day**

* Pens and Pencils
* A marble notebook (for lab purposes)
* 1 Highlighter
* One (1) 3 inch Binder with loose leaf paper
* Colored Pencils
* 1 two pocket folder
* **A four-function (with square root), scientific, or graphing calculator is permitted on both the multiple-choice and free-response sections of the AP Biology Exam since both sections contain questions that require data manipulation.**

**Grading Policy**

Tests/ Quizzes 60%

Labs 15%

Homework/Classwork/Participation 25%

**Total: 100**

**Quizzes and Tests**: (60%) Exams will be administered every after every unit, and possibly at the end of each quarter. The tests will resemble the AP Exam with both multiple choice and short answer questions. There will be no test corrections. Quizzes will be given throughout the unit with at least a days notice. Missed assessments (due to absences) must be made up within five class days during extra help otherwise the grade becomes a zero. AP biology moves very quickly, and it is imperative that students are studying every night. Students who wish to earn college credit should expect to spend about an hour studying each night.

**Homework/Classwork and Participation**: (25%)

Homework assignments will be posted every night. Edpuzzle videos are due **BEFORE CLASS.** Written homework is due at the **beginning of class**. **Homework has a hard deadline, meaning it is not accepted late** (students missing class for field trips, lessons or other school related functions, must show homework on the date it is due by either placing it in my mailbox, in my classroom or electronically submitting it). Handout homework will only be accepted late due to absence on the day it is due (it must be submitted the next day). Any other late or incomplete homework assignments and videos **cannot** be made up for credit. Student homework averages often correlate to assessment averages- therefore you are encouraged to take your time on your assignments and ask questions before they are due. Classwork and participation are graded based on assignments, attendance, participation and walkthroughs throughout the class time.

**Labs:** (15%) AP Biology requires 13 laboratory assignments that tested on during the AP exam. These laboratory experiments will take place over several days and any absence will negatively impact your grade. AP labs are inquiry based and require students to explore and ask questions. These labs will require pre-lab work, data collection, data analysis and a lab write up. Students will use their lab notebooks to collect data and lab write-ups will be submitted electronically via google classroom. Students will have opportunities to request feedback and edit labs for better grades prior to the due date. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Students are encouraged to work together but must submit their own work in their own words. Students who are caught plagiarizing will earn a zero on their lab assignment. AP Biology labs require absolute safety and if at any time, a student is caught not adhering to safety procedures, they will earn a zero for the lab assignment. Student who are absent will have five days to complete any lab assignment. Late labs will result in a grade penalty.

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Class starts when you enter the room and ends when you are dismissed.
2. Cell phones/IPods and other electronic devices are not to be out during class time- unless used for educational purposes at the teachers discretion.
3. No food during class- especially during lab time. Students may have water but this is to be left at the desk and not brought to the lab tables.
4. Bathroom and passes are only given for emergency purposes only.
5. Students must be respectful to themselves, each other, the classroom and me. **BULLYING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**
6. Students must come prepared with materials everyday (pen/pencil, calculator, binder, and folder).
7. Students must dress appropriately- some labs will require certain attire.
8. Be prepared to learn and work every day

**Extra Help:** I will be available until 2:10 for extra help (unless there is a meeting or an extenuating circumstance). One day a week will be dedicated to Earth Science extra help and therefore students should plan accordingly. If students require more assistance, I may be available to stay later, so long as there is advanced notice. Students are encouraged to purchase review books and utilize their textbooks, review books and other resources to help them.

Studies show that parental involvement in a child’s education is one of the strongest indicators of student achievement. I hope you will make it a priority this year to attend the parent/teacher conferences (dates TBA), contact me via email, or call us. Please encourage your child to attend every school day as possible. In addition, please check my’ website weekly for updates on assignments and upcoming assessments <https://sites.google.com/a/wfsd.k12.ny.us/msaswiss/>

If you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to schedule a conference, you can contact me at William Floyd High School between 7:30 AM – 2:15 PM on Mondays through Fridays. The high school phone number is (631) 874-1100. Or you can contact us by e-mail at aswiss@wfsd.k12.ny.us**;**

Once again, welcome to AP Biology.

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**Cut and return** -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I have read and I understand the policies and procedures outlined above.

I understand safety and authenticity are a priority and non-compliance will not be tolerated. I p

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