AP Biology Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Gowler

Room B27

Email: [lgowler@ms.k12.il.us](mailto:lgowler@ms.k12.il.us)

Class Website: [**http://gowler.weebly.com**](http://gowler.weebly.com/)

Please join my Remind 101 group. I will send out reminders and important information throughout the year utilizing this resource to join go to:

**www.remind.com/join/mrsgowle**

**Course Overview**

AP Biology is designed to offer students a solid foundation in introductory college-level biology. The course is structured around the 4 Big Ideas of Biology, Enduring Understandings, and Science Practices which will assist students in developing an appreciation for the study of life and in identifying and understanding unifying principles within the biological world.

Science is a way of knowing. Therefore, knowing about biology requires that students learn the process of inquiry and develop critical thinking skills. The course will focus not only on knowing science content, but also learning skills to analyze and interpret data, and to communicate information in a meaningful way to others.

At the end of the course, students will

* have an awareness of the integration of other sciences into the study of biology.
* understand how our own species is similar, yet different from other species.
* become knowledgeable and responsible citizens in understanding biological issues that could impact their lives.

**Recommended Resources for purchase**:

Pearson Education Test Prep Series for AP Biology Exam (less than $20)

**Grades**

* Standard grading scale will be followed as described in the student handbook.
* 80% of your final grade will be made up of homework, labs, classwork, practice free-response quizzes, and unit tests (Total Points).

\***You can drop 1 quiz grade per quarter**\* ☺

* 20 % of your final grade is the semester **cumulative** final exam (2nd semester will be cumulative for 1st and 2nd semester and will be taken before the AP Test)

The AP Biology Exam

Exam Day 2019

Monday, May 13th

The exam is 3 hours long and has two sections — multiple choice/grid-in, and free-response. You are allowed to use a four-function calculator (with square root) throughout the exam.

**Section I:** Multiple Choice | 69 Questions | 1 hour and 30 minutes | 50% of Exam Score

* **Multiple-Choice: 63 Questions**
  + Discrete questions
  + Questions in sets
* **Grid-In: 6 Questions**
  + The grid-in questions focus on the integration of science and mathematical skills. For these responses, you need to calculate the correct answer for each question and enter it in a grid on that section of the answer sheet.

**Section II:**Free-response | 8 Questions | 1 hour and 30 minutes (includes a 10-minute reading period) | 50% of Exam Score

* **Long Free-response** (2 questions, one of which is lab or data-based)
* **Short Free-response**(6 questions, each requiring a paragraph-length argument/response)

**Advanced Placement Biology Content**

4 Big Ideas of AP Biology

**Big Idea 1:** The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.

**Big Idea 2:** Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.

**Big Idea 3:** Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes.

**Big Idea 4:** Biological systems interact and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.