

Dear Future AP Biology Students,

Congratulations! You have signed up for an AMAZING class. Mrs. Riedell is an amazing teacher, so pay attention in class - listening to lectures and adding things to your notes/powerpoints are the two greatest study/learning tools you have. That said, read the book, especially for the most important chapters --> this will help A LOT. I didn't take AP test because my school doesn't take the credit, BUT, I would highly encourage y'all to take the AP test. If anything, it will help you stay focused (esp. during the spring). My biggest piece of advice, though, is to ask a lot of questions and be inquisitive. Mrs. Riedell knows so much beyond just what's in the curriculum. So if you've been curious as to whether or not ecstasy can leave you paralyzed, or how an elephant gives birth - just ask! I'm almost certain Mrs. Riedell will have an answer to your question. Finally, don't fall behind on your work. If you commit to doing AP BIO work for 30-60 mins/night even when you're not assigned work, you'll feel so much better and confident on each chapter test and on the AP test in the spring. You'll get out of this class whatever you put in. Again, have fun. This is an awesome class. Enjoy yourself and learn a lot!

A (hopefully) wise senior.

Sam Dunkle

Dear AP Bio Kids,

First off, congrats on picking an awesome class! Don't worry if you're concerned you can't handle it - you totally can! You're going to learn a whole bunch of crazy stuff and do some pretty sweet labs.

So don't give up! You're going to get overwhelmed sometimes, but that's okay. You'll get through it. Just keep swimming.!!

This class is not a walk in the park though. The tests require actual studying (crazy, I know), and you definitely have to pay attention in class and do your homework. You should for sure READ THE BOOK. You'll get by if you don't, but you won't be nearly as successful. And use the Cliffs and Holtzclaw study books - they're great resources.

You'll have some days and weeks where you won't have homework, but don't just slack off - there is ALWAYS something you should probably be studying.

Not that this class isn't a ton of

fun too. You're going to have a blast! Look up the birthdays of just about anyone who's ever done anything relating to biology and you can totally convince Mrs. Riedell to have a party. Or you could just bring food for no reason- that's cool too. Food days are the best. Just wait till the Ovary party! (That's a real thing. And it's awesome.) Projects are really fun too; if you have an idea for a project in one of the units, you should totally suggest it because those are really fun and interesting. The evolution project is great, so hopefully you get to do that. HAVE FUN! ☺

Okay, so obviously this is an AP class, and in May you're going to have this thing called an AP test. First off, relax. Don't get anxious about it. Start preparing early (like in April). Studying for half an hour a night for a few weeks will be much more useful than cramming the weekend before the test. Definitely utilize study groups;

your classmates are really good resources, and having someone to bounce your knowledge off is really helpful.

So... study hard, enjoy yourself, eat some cake, make some new friends and have fun! You're in for a great year. ☺

Love,
Megan McGrath
Former AP Bio Kid
☺

TIPS to Incoming AP Bio-ers...

→ This class is one of the most awesome classes I've taken in high school, so get excited!! You're going to have a lot of fun!

→ This class isn't a class that you can just sit in + expect to spend only class time on. It takes a lot of outside studying. Don't expect to just breeze through. Read your text book + any other books Mrs. Riedell gives you! You get them for a reason.

- Avoid getting stressed, Mrs. Riedell is + probably the most understanding teacher in the high school when it comes to making up work or turning in things late. (not a good habit though)

- Ask to have parties for famous scientists' birthdays! She always says yes!

- Prepare to hate flies for the rest of your life... just wait... you'll see

- First semester is going to go by super slow. And when second semester starts the pace picks up super fast. Don't procrastinate (I'm probably the worst) & have to go through everything super fast, you won't remember anything when it gets to AP test time, which really sucks.
- Seriously use your resources, it makes everything a million times easier!!!
- Mrs. Kiedell is awesome! She gives everyone more help than you could ask for and some amazing review tools.
- Study, study, **STUDY!!** Or you'll have to do it all during the last month of school, which we all know doesn't mix well with the common disorder known as Senioritis. You're not going to pass this class without trying!
- Suck it up & try to make this class fun! Have a great year & good Luck!!!

- Spencer Eiseman '11

Dear Future AP Bio Students,

The best advice I can give you is to continue to work hard ALL year, EVEN when you think you can get by with minimal effort. I know it is tough to go above + beyond, but trust me. My biggest regret was slacking off when I could afford to.

Mrs. Riedell is a great teacher. She gives you everything you need to get a '5' on the AP exam. I can tell you right now, it takes three steps, + honestly every single student is capable of getting that '5'. ① READ THE BOOK! It may look massive now, but it really isn't that bad if you read a few pages a day. Think about it, you have all year (9 months?) to read it, plus Christmas break if you want to get ahead. ② LISTEN TO MRS. RIEDELL! She knows her stuff + she makes complicating topics sound very basic. ③ RETAIN THE INFO YOU'RE LEARNING. Don't commit everything you learn to short term memory. I suggest you look over your other test prep books after each chapter to refresh your memory.

Maybe my suggestions sound like a lot of work, but just know that if you do what I advise now, you won't have to retake the class in college. It's so worth it.

Also, it actually isn't that much work. If you manage your time wisely, you probably won't spend more than an hour every day on AP Bio homework. Well, good luck with your year! ☺

Sincerely,
Courtney Krishnan

Dear Anonymous Future AP Bio Student,

Congratulations! You have been chosen to join the ranks of APBio students past. Your voyage will be full of learning information, committing fruit flyicide, and consuming plant ovaries. The year will be a jolly time, and I encourage you to make the most of it. So don't quit when the going gets tough. To aid you, here are some tips for a great year of AP Biology with Mrs. Riedell.

1) PAY ATTENTION IN CLASS!!!

All of the information you need is given to you in class so refrain from doing homework.

2) DON'T FALL ASLEEP!!!

I know it's tempting but fight against your your evil eyelids because the lecture you are dosing off to has valuable information in it.

3) Do your homework!

This is coming from a person who is prone to procrastination, but hypocrisy aside, really do your homework!

(on time!!!)

AP Bio is a fun class and you won't be realizing its full potential by being behind. If you ever need encouragement or motivation, find me and I'll smack some sense into you. **4)** Ask questions so you understand the information fully because it will come back to haunt you.

Have fun! Happy Learning,
Lynn Yen

Future AP Bio student,

First of all I wish you the best of luck.

AP Bio is not a joke and it is not a class that should be taken lightly. However don't be nervous about what you have gotten yourself into. As long as you do your homework, study for tests, and ask questions you will pass this class.

Homework is rather light for this class. It usually consists of doing labs or reviewing a lab. Doing the lab prep ahead of time will save you a lot of confusion during class.

Tests are hard in this class, I won't lie. If you don't spend time out of class studying you will not do well. I suggest using the Holtzclaw book, or Mrs. Riedell's website which is amazing. Also, do test corrections they will help your grade A LOT!

If you are confused about something it is extremely important to ask. Ask a classmate, or Mrs. Riedell because you need to make sure you understand the material especially the first semester because that stuff never ever seems to go away.

I hope you have a wonderful time

in AP Bio. Don't be turned off after you murder hundreds of fruit flies because I promise it gets better. Also, on your first lab day, take it hour by hour because it will seem like the longest day of your life. These were the hardest parts of this class and you can get through it.

So relax and enjoy AP Biology. Mrs. Riedell knows what she is doing and she knows how to help you. Bring food to take the edge off of the intense learning and have a magnificent year!

- Good Luck!!!

Jamie Sterbis

- read the Holtzclaw book!
- turn in homework ON TIME

Dear student-of-the-future,

If you are reading this letter, it can only mean one thing: you have decided to take AP Biology. There are a few things you can do to make your experience worthwhile and get a 5 on the AP Exam. First, you have to take the exam (you can't get a 5 if you don't) or the class is essentially worthless; unless you're one of those people who like investing a lot of time and effort into things that don't pay off. Obviously, paying attention in class, doing your homework, and all that jazz will certainly help. On that note, while you're busy studying in the weeks leading up to the test, don't decide to put any labs or homework off until after the test, because afterwards everyone will point and laugh at you as you do homework and they watch movies. If you have taken Honors Chem, and/or Human Anatomy, that experience will help you. If you are taking them, that will help you even more. Your fellow students can be very useful as studying partners and lab helpers; you shouldn't underestimate the value of setting up outside study groups. Other than that, the #1 thing you can do outside of class is read the textbook (especially the parts that

get skipped over) and read Holtzclaw + Holtzclaw,
those two will help immensely.

Sincerely,
Gabe Sexton

Dear Incoming A.P. Biology students:

I'm Yang Fuller I took A.P. Biology last year. Do not drop this class at the half way christmas break, start of the 2nd semester is easier than the 1st but still work at it. If you do your reading, homework and turn things in on time, you will do well. Also study groups with students and Mrs. Arden outside of class would be helpful.

Your fellow student:

Yang Fuller

To whom it may concern,

If you're reading this, then you are taking AP Biology. Congratulations on your decision, you made a good choice. Now for the bad news, you will probably fail the test, unless you're as smart as me (which is unlikely). Since you're not as smart as me, then you should follow the following steps in order to get at least decent in the AP Test:

1. Have fun, AP Bio is probably most fun class you will have all year. You will learn plenty of stuff if you are open to new information and have fun.
2. Don't underestimate the destruction of AP Biology. While having fun, you shouldn't forget you are taking AP Biology, one of the hardest AP class you will take. Listen in class, don't fall asleep, study for test, don't cheat. (That's just good manners.)
3. Correct your tests. Now to the specifics of what you should do to be good at AP Bio. Correct your tests. Since I am so smart that I got 100% in all my tests, I don't need to correct my tests. But for you, you won't get 100% in all your tests, so correct all your tests, it will help your grade a lot. (I'm speaking from experience.)
4. Do all the extra credit that you can. Since I have 100% as my grade for both semesters, I don't need to do extra credit, but you do! Like test corrections, extra credit will boost your grade. (I'm also speaking from experience.)

5. Hand in your homework on time. I shouldn't nag you like your mother, but I do anyways. (Jeff, if you're reading this, do your homework!)

6. Engage in fun activities! Such as celebrating famous scientists' birthday, participate in study groups, eat breakfast at Perkins and studying at the same time, etc.

That's about it, I can't think of any more stuff to tell you. I believe in you. I believe you can at least pass the test now, even though you're still not as smart as me. Oh yeah, almost forgot, you should read the textbook, if you can't read, you should still look at the pretty pictures to learn AP Biology.

Lindus Lai

Dear Incoming ...

Make sure you pay attention! and try not to sleep. It's relatively easy as long as you follow Mrs. Bizzell. Don't slack off on your homework. Get it done right away, so you don't forget because it is easy to. And do all the extra-credit study guides because they help a lot!

do I recommend along?

Also you really need to study! You can memorize this stuff but ~~there's~~ there is just way too much! And do stuff outside of class to help you learn. And get together as a class outside of school to study, because there will probably be someone who knows something you don't!

Good luck + don't slack off!

Mia Ziegler ☺

P.S. the labs are super cool!!!
+ this is a really fun
class!!! ☺