

Welcome to AP Biology!

The main goal of this course is to develop an understanding of concepts in Biology and to be able to discuss unifying concepts throughout the subject. The curriculum focuses on four Big Idea's that you will have to not only understand but be able to relate to the course content and to one another:

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.

Please remember that this is a course for dedicated, hardworking students driven to succeed. It will **not** be treated as an honors level course so you should be prepared for the challenge and willing to put the work in. It will require an immense amount of reading and writing along with critical analysis for the lab component and will require a large amount of work **outside of class**. A foundation in basic chemistry is required as it will not be reviewed during class time.

Summer Work:

To ensure you are prepared for the course and the amount of work you will complete during the year, the following work will be completed over the summer:

- Pick up your textbook** before you leave for the summer. Make sure to fill out a textbook card. The book title is **Principles of Life**, Second Edition and you will need it to complete the assignment.

- Join** the Google Classroom, course code: **v3rtpk**
 - If you haven't been part of a Google Classroom yet:
 - Go to classroom.google.com
 - Log in with your Pelham Schools account
 - Click the "+" at the top right corner of the screen
 - Click "Join Class" and enter the course code

- Fill out the [course intro survey](#) ASAP**

- ❑ **Reading and Response:** Choose one of the following books:
[Survival of the Sickest](#), Dr. Sharon Moalem (I think this one is more interesting)
[Your Inner Fish](#), Neil Shubin

Keep a **HANDWRITTEN** journal/notes of the topics you find most interesting. You will need them for class discussion and **will be required to use them during your first exam.** Only handwritten notes will be allowed.

- ❑ **Presentation Assignments:** Click below for the documents which contain directions for each presentation (2). **Outline** the textbook sections and fill out the attached document noting the important vocabulary. Answer **all** questions in the presentation documents and **submit in classroom**. Make sure to view the videos found under “supplemental resources.” These concepts will be assessed on your first quiz and exam. These links are also posted in classroom where you need to submit your answers.

[Vocabulary Document](#)

[Matter Part I](#)

[Matter Part II](#)

- ❑ Answer the [Intro to AP Bio- BioChem Review Questions](#) and submit in classroom
- ❑ **Get an AP Bio Review Book:** I suggest the Baron’s book but if you have another favorite, choose that one.

By joining the Google Classroom you are agreeing that you have read and understand this letter and are aware of the time commitment this course will require.

