

# AP Biology

## 2019-2020

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### Course Description:

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions.

### Learner Outcomes:

[AP Biology Course and Exam Description](#)

### Required Materials:

Campbell Biology Textbook (should stay at home, unless determined by the teacher).

### Classroom Policies:

Late work: Assignments are expected to be turned in on their assigned due date. All late assignments must be turned in the day prior to the unit exam. Assignments turned in beyond this deadline will not receive credit.

Phones: During assessments (summative and formative) cell phones will not be tolerated. Many of the assessment materials provided in this class are confidential and are not to be shared or photographed in any way. Cell phones will either be turned in or expected to be turned off in a student's backpack.

### Absences:

Absences should not affect learning. You are responsible for checking the calendar on your teacher's google classroom and your absent partners to find what you have missed.

- If you were absent on the test review day you are *still responsible* to **take the test on the day of the test**.
- If you were absent on the day of an assessment, you must make up the assessment the **same day** you get back during class, unless otherwise determined by your teacher.
- If you were absent on a lab day, you have **until the day before the test** to finish the lab work and turn it in. Please check with your teacher on how to make it up.
- If you were absent on the day homework is **checked**, you must turn in the assignment the **same day** you get back during class.
- If you were absent on the day homework was **assigned**, you must turn in the assignment on the **following day**.

**Attendance:**

Excused and unapproved absences will not arbitrarily result in reduction in grades, but failure to complete work will usually affect grades. Students and/or parent or guardian are responsible for requesting make-up work for each day's absence. Students will be allowed two school days make-up time for each day of excused absence, with the exception of long-term assignments of 10 or more school days. Long-term assignments will be due the day the student returns to school. These times may be extended at the discretion of the teacher. Students will be allowed one day to make up work in the case of unapproved absences. Teachers are responsible for providing assignments after student or parent/guardian request.

**Tardies:**

Students will be assigned to after school detention (ASAP) or lunch detention based on unexcused absences and after reaching the following benchmarks for tardies *to one class*:

- 3 tardies: teacher contacts student's parent or guardian
- 5 tardies: student assigned to two days of lunch detention
- 10 tardies: student assigned to one week of lunch detention; letter sent home
- 20 tardies: dean will meet with student and family

**Academic Honesty:**

Mounds View School Board Policy EG-3109 Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Academic honesty is required to ensure an accurate measurement of a student's academic knowledge. The Mounds View School Board expects that students will achieve success with integrity. Academic dishonesty impairs a true showing of academic achievement. Substantiated reports of academic dishonesty will result in appropriate consequences as defined in accompanying regulations and in student handbooks. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: theft and use of tests; use of crib sheets or other cheating devices on an exam; plagiarism or representation of a substantial piece of work as one's own without proper attribution. This policy applies to all manner, including the most current technological advances, systems, or equipment, that may be utilized for the purposes of academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty will be considered a behavioral infraction. The following guidelines will be utilized when a violation of academic honesty occurs:

- Consequences will be commensurate with the severity of the incident
- Consequences cannot prevent growth and development or an accurate measurement of student achievement
- Measures will be sought to determine why the academic dishonesty occurred
- Students will be required to provide a written explanation of behavior
- Students in violation of this policy will not escape the performance indicator; student knowledge will still be measured within an agreed timeframe set by teacher, dean, and student
- Additional consequences may include:
  - Re-examination of content; repeat of project, paper, or activity
  - Possible reduced score/grade not to prevent achieving a level of proficiency
  - Other measures identified in Mounds View School Board Policy EG-3109: Student Rights and Responsibilities
  - Multiple offenses may result in loss of credit, to be determined by building principal

(Irondale Student Handbook 8).

**Grading Scale:**

- In this course, we use equal interval grading to assess student progress.
- The purpose of the equal interval scale is to encourage proficiency rather than the accumulation of points and to support student growth over the course of the semester.
- Students and parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers if current progress does not seem adequate; we can then work together to find strategies to improve proficiency.

Individual Assignment Grade Configuration		
Gradebook Entry	Description	Point Value
A	Went beyond the basic requirements for proficiency	4
B	Met all the basic requirements for proficiency.	3
C	Met some basic requirements for proficiency	2
D	Met very few basic requirements for proficiency.	1
I	Didn't show enough work to demonstrate proficiency	0
M	Missing Evidence of Proficiency	0
XP	Assignment is expired	0

Final Grade Configuration		
A	3.40	4.00
A-	3.20	3.59
B+	3.01	3.19
B	2.59	3.00
B-	2.40	2.58
C+	2.21	2.39
C	1.79	2.20
C-	1.60	1.78
D+	1.41	1.59
D	0.99	1.40
D-	0.80	0.98
I	0.00	0.79

*Note: Regardless of the final mathematical calculation, students who do not complete required assessments will receive a final grade of I (recovered in summer school, or through after-school credit recovery programming) or NG (recovered with the classroom teacher within three weeks of the semester's end).*

## Gradebook Setup:

Grade Category	Gradebook weight
<b>Performance</b> (Summative Assessments, Labs, and Projects)	95%
<b>Practice</b> (i.e. Formative Check-ins, Personal Progress Checks, Formative Labs)	5%

## Accessing Grades:

Parents can access grades through [ParentVUE](#). Parents will be able to see assignments for each class, and the assignments may have a score or a code (or both). Assignments may also include written comments from the teacher.

**Mi** = Missing (the assignment is missing and is currently counting as a score of zero)

**Ab** = Absent (the student was absent when the assignment was given or due)

**La** = Late (the assignment was turned in late)

**Inc** = Incomplete (the turned in assignment was not complete)

**TI** = Turned in (the assignment is turned in but does not yet have a score)

**WIP** = Work in progress (the student is working on the assignment and although it is not completed, it is not missing--this is often used for projects that have multiple parts)

## Relearning Opportunities:

Summative Assessments: Relearning and reassessment will be provided on each summative assessment. The relearning plan will take place the day after the assessment. Reassessment will take place in-class on a specified day within a week of the original assessment.

Summative Labs: Students will have the opportunity to rework any area of a summative lab for full credit. Students must demonstrate a clear understanding of their feedback and make appropriate adjustments according to the rubric to earn up to full credit. This work must be completed the day before the unit assessment.

**Study together!** Call/ text/ e-mail/ facetime/ etc. with your fellow AP biologists to ask for help or to study with each other. I would be happy to help you as well. In one way or another, get your questions answered, get help, and stay caught up!

# AP Biology Grading Practices

*This is a working document and adjustments may be made and implemented at anytime during the course per teacher discretion.*

## Personal Progress Checks (PPCs) - Practice

- PPCs will be assigned either as homework or in class for each unit
- This includes a combination of multiple choice questions and Free Response Questions

## Formative Labs - Practice, if graded

- There will be many formative labs throughout each of the eight units. Feedback of student understanding will be monitored and provided by using many methods, including but not limited to: oral lab report, lab quiz, video, poster presentation.

## Summative Labs - Performance

- There will be approximately one formally graded summative lab for each of the eight units during the year.
- Students will be graded on the six science practices listed below:
  - Concept application
  - Visual representations
  - Question and method
  - Representing and describing data
  - Statistical test and data analysis
  - Argumentation

## Free Response Questions (FRQs) - Performance

- FRQs will be assigned points using a question specific grading rubric. These points will correlate to the proficiency grading scale below:

Proficiency	4 point FRQ	8 point FRQ
A	4 pts	7-8 pts
B	3 pts	5-6 pts
C	2 pts	3-4 pts
D	1 pt	1-2 pts
I	0 pts	0 pts

## Unit Tests - Performance

- Multiple Choice (30 questions/45 minutes)
- Receive scores and determine relearning plan following class period
- Reassessment will cover all chapters within the unit
- To earn the opportunity to reassess and earn a proficient unit exam score, students will need to successfully complete all chapter study guides and follow the steps outlined in the unit relearning guide.
- Reassessment scores will replace the original assessment score regardless if it increases or decreases the grade.
- Reassessment will also be 30 multiple choice questions in 45 minutes on the determined differentiation day.
- Students that are proficient on original assessment will have a choice of various extension or work ahead opportunities on the differentiation day.
- Grades will be based on the scale below:

<b>Proficiency</b>	<b>Percentage Score</b>	<b>Questions Correct</b>
A	90-100	27
B (Proficient)	76-89.9	23
C	60-75.9	18
D	53-59.9	16
I	0-52.9	0-15