

# Pre-AP BIOLOGY

## Student Contract

Mr. Acevedo, Room 117/119

### Welcome to Pre-AP Biology!

I hope you find this Biology class challenging and fun.

I have prepared this information for you to read through it carefully. Be sure to read everything carefully. Take it home, share it with your parents, have it signed, and then place it into your Biology notebook as the first pages.

### Course Description:

Biology is the study of the structure, growth, and function of life systems of selected organisms. This course will encompass historical contributions to biological concepts; energy production, transfer, and use in living systems; and the interrelatedness of organisms with each other and with environments. Below are the requirements and expectations for this course. You will be responsible at all times for your behavior in this course, and if you choose to deviate in any way from this contract, your actions will directly result in appropriate and immediate consequences.

### Pre-AP Biology Syllabus Spring Semester

Textbook: Prentice Hall Biology,  
Levine, Miller

Unit 4: Genetics  
Chapters 13, 14

Unit 5: Evolution  
Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18

Unit 6: Viruses, Monerans, and Protist  
Chapter 19, 20 & 21

Unit 7: Plant Structure and Function  
Chapter 22,23,24,25

Unit 8-10: Systems in Organisms (Dissections)  
Chapters 29, 33, 35, 36, 37.

Dissection itinerary:

For CH29: Earthworm, and Tarantula;

For CH 30: Shark and Frog;

For CH 32 & 35-37: Fetal Pig

Note: This syllabus may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Exams, quizzes, and assignments will not be release, but students are welcome to review their answers.

Final Exam review Week

### Grading Policy:

Tests / Projects	60%
Labs / Quizzes	30%
Class participation (includes daily work and homework)	10%

### Student Expectations:

1. Student is responsible for reading the chapter prior to class.
2. Student will be assessed via pop-quizzes. Chapter to cover that day as well as all previous chapters can and will be included.

3. Student is responsible for all vocabulary terms in assigned chapters as well as chapter assessments.
4. Homework\Assignments are due at the beginning of class (No excuses), unless otherwise instructed

### Penalties for choosing to break a rule:

First Offense:	S in conduct and possible detention
Second Offense:	P in conduct and personal conference with the teacher.
Third Offense:	Referral to the principal.

### Classroom Rules:

1. Be in your assigned seat when the tardy bell rings (working on bellringer). Failure to do so can result in a tardy.
2. Bring all materials daily. (No excuses)  
ALL required materials should be with you at all times (text, notebook, lab data notebook, etc)
3. Be courteous and respectful to others in ALL situations.
4. Be productive and participate in class.  
Participation during lectures, labs, and projects as well as your attitude at all times in the classroom (are you learning focused) play a large role in your grade.
5. Follow the teacher's directions the FIRST time they are given.  
This is extremely important at all times to ensure the most effective and efficient learning possible, and is especially important during laboratory exercises to ensure safety for all persons.

### Supplies:

1 three ringed binder  
1 composition (for laboratory reports)  
5 dividers for: Grade record, Notes, Vocabulary, Assignments (In-class/Homework), and Quizzes  
Notebook paper  
Blue, black, red pen  
Pencil,  
Ruler,  
Color pencils and markers,  
Glue stick,  
Color construction paper (one packet), etc.  
Other supplies will be required for in-class projects (TBA).

### Structure of Course:

This course will move at a rapid pace and if you fail to actively participate for even one class period you will be choosing to increase your risk of failure and/or less than ideal performance. You are all capable of earning a grade of 'A' in this course, but you will earn the grade, it will not be given to you. Your accomplishments in high school will be a part of your character for the remainder of your life, and I therefore encourage you to take yourself and your actions seriously and always remember to think before you act instead of the other way around.

Lectures will take place often and at this time "pop-quizzes" will usually be given. This contract and your syllabus are the most important documents you will receive from me and should be read, re-read, and studied every class period to ensure you are on track and aware of any changes that will be made along the way. You will be required to keep all of the information I give you in your notebook, which will be checked periodically throughout the year for neatness and completeness. Late work will be accepted for a maximum grade of 50% of the original possible points. You are to write in only blue or black ink throughout the year and assignments written in pencil will be returned to you and will not be graded.

### Absences:

If you are absent for any reason, you will have three days to make up the work at which time it will become a zero if not turned in.

**Assignments:**

Label all assignments in the upper left-hand corner as indicated:

Student's full name
Teacher's name
Subject and period
Date

**Labs:**

Pre-lab write-ups will be due before beginning the laboratory assignment. If you fail to complete the pre-lab at the appropriate time you will not perform the laboratory experiment with your peers as your lack of understanding will slow the others down. Safety is always number one in a laboratory, and if I for any reason feel your actions are a potential threat to yourself, your peers, or the teacher, you will have to sit out the lab. You will not leave the lab until all supplies are cleaned and returned to their original place. I encourage you to watch the clock and begin cleaning up approximately 10 minutes before the class period is over.

**Tests and quizzes:**

If you choose to communicate with your peers during an exam, either verbally or non-verbally, you will be subject to receive a zero on your test/ quiz as well as to the consequences of DeBaKey's "Cheating Policy". If you make a mistake on your Scantron, either erase it fully or start over on a new Scantron, put an X through the old Scantron and turn them both in when you have completed the exam. I will not correct mistakes made by the Scantron machine as a result of sloppiness. Test, Quizzes and some assignments will be kept by the teacher and you are subject to carefully review them during tutorials.

**Extra Credit:**

All extra credit projects must be presented to the class one week before the cycle ends, and you may receive up to 2 extra points on your cycle grade. To earn extra credit, you may do a project on any topic that was covered during the cycle. You can receive 0-2 points maximum per cycle based on originality and creativity (my discretion).

**Start of class:**

If you are not seated in your assigned seat and beginning the 'bell ringer' when the bell rings, you are subject to receive a tardy. You will need to first take out your homework and supplies, then write out the warm-up, and formulate answers to the related questions during the first 10 minutes of class. During this time, I will take attendance, check off homework and/or collect any assignments. If you fail to have your homework out when I come by you will have to turn it in the next day for a late grade.

**Tardy:**

You are tardy if you are not inside the classroom when the bell rings. If you are late, you must report to the office, and may only return with an excuse slip.

**Leaving the classroom:**

You are allowed to leave the classroom with my permission, but not within the first 15 minutes or last 15 minutes of class, during a quiz or a test. Additionally, if I feel you are abusing this privilege, your departure will count as one tardy. If you need to leave, ask for my permission first. If I approve, fill in the hall pass sign-out sheet by the door with your full name, destination, and departure time. Upon your return, enter the time in and sit down quietly. Only one student will be allowed to leave the room at one time. If the student is gone for an excessive amount of time or fails to sign out, they will lose the hall pass privilege for the remainder of the semester.

**Class Dismissal:**

Make sure your area is picked up and clean! I dismiss the class, not the bell.

**Fire Drill:**

At the sound of the bell, push in your chair and line up at the door and do not talk. Stay in a silent single-file line until we reach our destination in the parking lot. At this time you may quietly talk to your friends. If you fail to follow these directions you will automatically receive an "S" in conduct for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense. If you continue to act inappropriately, you will receive a "P" in conduct following your second offense and will additionally be sent to the principal's office.

**Tutoring/Conferences**

I am available for classroom tutoring either during scheduled tutorials, or by appointment. To request tutoring, please see me to make arrangements for a convenient time to meet. If at any time you or your parent would like to discuss your progress, please request an individual conference with me by phone (713-741-2410) or E-mail ([racedved1@houstonisd.org](mailto:racedved1@houstonisd.org)) at least one day in advance. Students failing the class are responsible for attending tutorials.