

AP Biology

Mr. Andrew Ising

Email Address: aising@usd348.com

School Phone Number: 785-594-2725

SMS Messaging: 913-795-1BHS (1247)

Websites: Canvas Page www.twitter.com/ItsIsing

Textbook: *OpenStax College, 2015. Concepts in Biology. Rice University & OpenStax College.* Access the textbook using bit.ly/bhscollegebiobook or by downloading it in the iTunes app store.

Classroom: 208 Seminar Room: 208

The mission of Baldwin High School is to provide students academic opportunities for college and career readiness while developing critical thinkers and problem-solvers who are positive, contributing members of society.

	Time	Class
1	8:00-8:48	PLAN
2	8:52-9:40	AP Biology
3	9:50-10:38	Biology 1
4	10:42-11:30	Biology 1
5	11:34-12:30	Biology 1
6	1:04-1:52	Biology 1
7	1:56-2:44	Biology 1

A BIT ABOUT BIOLOGY

Biology is the study of life. Our units will be fairly comprehensive, taking in all the major fields in biology. This class focuses on the four “Big Ideas” which are covered in more detail in the *official* syllabus for the class submitted to the College Board. We will take an “inquiry-based” approach to biology, which means that we will study our topics by exploring, questioning and experimenting.

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING TO EACH CLASS?

- Something to write with and something to write on (Composition Notebook)
- Digital File Storage (GoogleDrive, Dropbox, etc.)
- iPad
- Excitement, curiosity and passion to **do** science

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ABSENT

First, and most importantly if you were sick, you should get better before returning to school. Any work that you missed for an *excused* absence can be made up in the week following your return. All papers that are handed out during class will be made available that day (at the latest) online in our Canvas classroom.

If your absence is unexcused, you **ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE** for getting your missed work. Don't blow off the assignments expecting to finish them later. The work from this class (not to mention your other six) will begin to pile up quickly.

HOW CAN YOU GET HELP FROM ME?

I am here to help you do well in this course, but it will involve effort from you. If you are putting that effort forward, I will do everything I can to help you. Email is the easiest way to

get in touch with me outside of school hours, though the website will have most of the material and course work posted for you to access away from school. This is similar to how things will work after high school. You can find me before school, usually no later than 7:30AM, in room 208, as well as during Seminar (office hours).

Academic Honesty Policy: Students will be expected to submit their own work, to properly reference outside sources of knowledge, and to otherwise conduct themselves with the utmost integrity. The full academic honesty policy is available online.

This class is a college-level Biology course. As such, you will be expected to work, communicate and think on the same level as a college student. Luckily, you are still provided with the time to learn on the same pace as a high school student. The extra time in our class will be used in many ways, but mostly it is allotted to in-depth and ongoing experiments.

Please be aware that AP and college classes require a time commitment above and beyond most normal and even “Honors” classes. The College Board normally recommends taking no more than 2 AP/college-level courses at any time.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

This class will be a graded using an objectives-based method. The material tested on the AP Biology test has been broken into 149 learning objectives, and you will be scored on your level of mastery on each of those standards. It will be up to you to demonstrate and justify those levels of mastery during individual conferences with me. Conferences will take place during classes (twice per quarter), or before/after school or during seminar by appointment.

Level of Mastery	Example Activities
Knowledge	Notes, Guided Readings, Discussions
Comprehension	Class activities, Worksheets, POGILs, Article Annotations, Quizzes
Application	Experiments, Virtual Labs, Demonstrations, etc.
Synthesis	Summative Exams, Projects, etc.

This class will not be graded on a traditional 90-80-70-60 scale. As we are preparing you college-level biology and the AP Biology test, your grade will mimic the scores needed to achieve a score on the 5-point AP test scale. You will earn one point for each level of mastery demonstrated for a given standard, meaning each standard is given the same amount of weight toward your final grade. With 149 standards and 4 levels of mastery, there are 596 possible points to be earned over the course of the school year.

Letter Grade	Class Point Range	Predicted AP Test Score
A	596-476	5
B	475-405	4
C	404-330	3
D	329-240	2
F	239-0	1