

2012 - 2013

Dear AP Bio student from the future,

I hope you are ready to learn about biology. If so, here are a few suggestions:

1. Listen to Mrs. Riedell. She knows way more than you do.
2. Read the Campbell & Reece textbook. It's dense, but it's also thorough and extremely valuable. Read the chapters in the textbook before you start going over them in class so your knowledge can be continually reinforced.
3. Use the Holtzclaw review book, but only to review. If you try to learn the material directly from the Holtzclaw book, you won't be able to make the connections and understand the big picture.
4. Know the labs. Pay attention when you do them in class and make sure you understand why you got the results you did. The labs you do in class are directly tested on the AP exam.
5. Appreciate what you're learning. Biology is an amazing science that explains so much of the world. If you enjoy the topics you're learning about, you will remember them better.

↓ - AP bio students,

Woohoo! You're going to learn science! This class is very beneficial if you decide to stick with it. Motivation is key: you have to be willing to study for both the AP test and the chapter tests. Often the class can be exhausting; it will be very tempting to slack off. But there are many fun units, labs, and topics that make it all worthwhile. Balance is important—make sure to study regularly, but don't overwhelm yourself.

My advice is to use all the resources available to you. Mrs. Riedell gives out textbooks and review books to help you, not so they can sit at the bottom of your locker. The beginning of the year consists of easy material, and much of this is review from bio I. Although you may remember this stuff pretty well, skimming the chapters would be crucial. Everything builds on the basic foundations of biology/chemistry. Comprehending these subjects is important when trying to understand the harder material.

If you can, I suggest also taking anatomy with Mr. Caldwell concurrently. There is a huge overlap between the classes, but both will show a different perspective on the same concepts.

All the other letters of advice are probably very similar to mine. That means it's probably a good idea to listen to these suggestions! We were once in your shoes. We read letters just like these, too. It's your decision as to whether you will follow these suggestions. It really is a wonderful class. Having a positive attitude really helps. Even if you struggle, don't hesitate to ask Mrs. Riedell questions. She's pretty great.



Have a great year! Don't die.

Dear AP Bio Students,

Congrats for signing up for the class. You have a lot of hard work ahead of you. The key to this class is keeping focused and on track, (which is really hard to do by the way). So don't sweat it if you get a bad test score because Mrs. Redell lets you do test corrections. If you're in Anatomy as well as AP Bio you're going to have a good time. A lot of the lessons coincide with each other and the anatomy textbook helps a lot when it comes to the body systems projects. Don't get stressed out about the AP test either. Just sit back and enjoy this fun class and all of interesting labs you get to do. Have fun in this class.

Sincerely,

Audrey Summers

P.S. Sorry for my horrendous penmanship. I hope you can still read my letter!

Dear Future AP Bio Students,

I know that you will have a good time in this class and will learn a lot as long as you are willing to work hard and not procrastinate. Mrs. Riedell knows what she's talking about and will prepare you for the AP test extremely well - especially since she now has a better idea of what the test will be like after our class has been the guinea pigs. For the class itself you should definitely listen to Mrs. Riedell's lectures and ask questions, read the books she gives you - they are extremely useful, and do not procrastinate. I know it's really hard and Mrs. Riedell is pretty flexible with due dates, but try to stay ahead - it's really easy to get behind, especially with lab books. Remember that you get out what you put in, so if you work hard this class will be extremely enjoyable and the AP test will not be a problem.

Sincerely,
Alexis Lehman
Alexis Lehman

Dear Future AP Bio student,

Good luck! You are entering a biology class that ranks above any others you have previously taken. You will be asked to use prior knowledge and apply it to situations while also learning new information simultaneously. The main focus of the new AP Bio test is application, application, application! In order to be prepared, make sure you have a solid understanding of the basic Bio knowledge. If you lack this, you will quickly fall behind in the class! Also, watch Bozeman videos. They tremendously help in understanding all of the concepts of Bio. In preparing for the AP test, the best thing you can do is practice questions. All the questions are based on application and the best way to master those is practice! I found that the Holtzclaw review book was the most thorough. Leading up to the test, I would highly suggest organizing study groups to work alongside your peers and help each other prepare for the test. Just make sure you study, study, study!

Good luck, ☺
Kara

Dear Future AP Bio students,

Mr Anderson is your friend. He is a great way to learn about topics that you don't know much about! Pay attention in class also. I know that some of you don't need to "study," But you honestly should this year. I went into the year thinking "I don't need to study." But after a couple of bad grades on the tests, I found that studying can be a great ally in the battlefield that is AP Bio. Grasp your pencil and textbook and prepare for war! I relish the moment when you are able to join me in the halls of Sovergaard and we will be able to drink ale and remember all the good times that were AP Bio.

Sincerely your blood brother,
Chris

AP Bio students,

Please pay attention to what I am about to tell you

① DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!!

you have projects, labs, and homework, don't wait until night before to start.

② READ THE BOOK

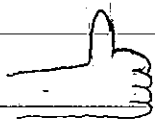
There's also good resources... the Holtzclaw & Cliff Notes. use that!!

③ study.....!! This is not one of those classes that you can expect to get an A without working for it.

④ study for the AP test early.

Please do not wait until a week before the test to study... There A LOT of information in this class.

HAVE FUN!! This is an awesome class!



I believe in you !!

- Yixuan He

Next Year AP Bio Kids,

Pro tip: Use your chapter review packets to study. They have a condensed version of everything you need to know for each chapter. Don't procrastinate on the Human Body systems project. Be organized with your lab book and notes. Make sure you are prepared for May; you will do battle with thousands of other kids just as smart as you. The AP test is curved; you don't have to know everything, just know more than half of the other students. Use deductive reasoning whenever you can. You will be surprised how much your brain can figure out without a firm understanding of the material.

That is all,

Your comrade-in-arms

T. Zou wad

Dear future AP Bio Kids,

The most important thing that I can tell you about this class is that it will be harder than you think.

This is not regular Bio. If you took Bio and did great and thought that the study of life was perfect for you, that's great, but you should know that this class is challenging. To be successful in this class, you really need to invest in the material all year long.

You can not slack off and still do well on the tests.

The great thing about this class is that if you make an effort to know the material, you'll realize that

it's actually really interesting. You will get senioritis (probably even if you're a junior) and you will want to slack off, but please don't. This class is really worth your

time and attention and Mrs. Riedell is a great teacher who works really hard to help her students succeed. Just

try a little bit harder than you want to. Be a person who rises above. There will be fun times in this class

that will make your work worthwhile. So work hard, study, enjoy yourself, and remember that you can get college credit

for this. 😊

Always confident in your success,

Rebecca A. Olive

Rebecca A. Olive

2012-2013

Dear Future AP Bio Students,

I would first like to wish you luck. Although this class needs daily or weekly study, luck always seems to be a small factor. This course isn't very hard, but without any studying or doing homework, the class can become difficult. Even though at times the class may become slow moving, just work through it. Keep your head high and keep working. Some nights you may miss out on some hours of sleep, but overall, it'll be worth it. Studying will be very helpful. At the beginning of the class I thought that it'd be similar to regular bio and I wouldn't have to study, but as I soon learned, AP Bio was much more intense. As I said before, just work through it. This class is a lot of homework and pushing yourself, but it's also really fun. Learning about the body is interesting and the class will be useful in any career that you choose. Anyhow, just study, have fun, and work hard, it'll pay off.

Sincerely,

Shannon Morrison