

Dear future Biology students,

First, if you aren't willing to do the work, you should probably either re-evaluate that decision, or drop the class. However, I am not trying to scare you either. The homework load in biology is quite manageable. Even if it might look like you have 10 assignments due per week, she always gives you things far ahead of time in order to be flexible, and most of the assignments are concise in order to help you learn/reinforce a concept while taking very little time, such as many BILL assignments.

Secondly, be engaged. Thoughtful and critical thinking about the concepts is the best way to fully understand them. Also, please, someone (or everyone) answer her questions when she asks them out loud. It only makes the class more awkward and less productive if everyone just sheepishly looks around the room.

Third, don't forget to have fun. Mrs. Riedell is a great teacher, but also a comical and entertaining one. Even if you find the curriculum boring (although science can definitely be interesting if you ask questions), that doesn't mean the class has to be. By making the class more fun, through a good class chemistry, it can be easier to look forward to and get something productive out of AP Biology class.

I wish you all a great year in AP Bio, and wish you luck on the year and your AP test.

To Next Year's AP Biology Students:

**STUDY!** This isn't a class that you can study for the night before a test. I recommend going through the textbook(s) and any other resource you can find online. They really help. I promise. When you complete a lab, don't wait until the night before to complete the conclusion questions. Basically, don't procrastinate and actually do your assignments on time. And since test corrects are offered, **DO THEM**. You may not think it will bump up your grade all that much, but it will really really help in the long run. Use the website Mrs. Riedell has put together for you to use; it helps you to prepare for the exam at the end of the chapter and for the final exam at the end of the year. If something doesn't make sense to you, ask for help. Mrs. Riedell is always available to help you. Finally, don't memorize the material. When you are taking the test at the end of the chapter, it will make so much more sense if you make connections to the other things you already know, and it will help you with learning future things and making connections.

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To Future AP Bio Students:

Welcome to AP Bio! You are about to begin one of the hardest classes offered at BHS. Not to scare you or anything. Though you've probably heard about the class. The tests are difficult, the concepts are complex. You signed up though, which means that you are probably abnormally smart.

With all that brainpower in one classroom, the best thing you can do to help you get through AP Bio is to work with other people. This year we discussed when making test corrections, but otherwise we didn't really collaborate outside of class. Even if you work better by yourself, you should try to find a group of people you can work with.

You are also probably thinking of taking the AP test in May. You should know that the AP exam is different from what you might expect. If you've taken the ACT, it's kind of similar to the ACT Science section. There's a lot of interpretation of lab data, graphs, experiments, and less regurgitation of facts. That being said, you do need to have a good solid foundation of biology knowledge. In AP Bio, you take what you learned in basic Bio and expand it. You also learn about totally new topics. For me, the hardest topics for me to-

retain were cell signaling and human body systems. Just remember:

Reception → Transduction → Response

And brush up on the differences between B-cells and T-cells, how nerves conduct signals, etc.

Overall, just study. Read your textbook. And good luck! You'll get through it.

Dear AP Biology students,

This is a really intense class, so if you aren't going to try, I don't take it. If you are interested in biology and you are willing to work, I would strongly encourage you to continue! I feel that I have a much more comprehensive understanding of biology, and this experience has made me a much more effective student. Remember to always, always, always study for any unit tests and seriously study a lot for the AP Bio test.

05/11/16

Dear Incoming AP Biology students,

Besides the fact that, by the time you're reading this, your mind is already buzzing with information, try to listen and pay attention to my final words of precaution and wisdom:

First, studying on your own time plays a huge role in your performance on test days. Set aside time to study the material went over in class weekly. Other than studying, what's even more important is simply paying attention. I promise that if you listen in class and understand the activity for the day, last minute cramming will not be an issue.

Second, work ahead if possible. The homework for the year is already posted on Mrs. Priedell's website, so take advantage. Completing assignments early can be a big stress reliever and allows more time for individual studying.

Last, take a deep breath and have fun. This is just another class in the day and biology is a super interesting subject.

Enjoy the rest of the year, and good luck to every single one of you!

To future kids,

Study. Actually read the textbook without being asked to or at least use the summary books given to you. Don't miss review days because they help a lot. If there is a topic you don't understand, get help right away or you will fall behind. Watch Bozeman videos to review. Actually take practice tests to prepare for the AP test. Even if you fail the first one you will get better with practice. Do not give up.

Good Luck!

Dear Future AP Biology Student,

AP Biology is a college-level class, so it will require you to be aware and motivated during the course of the year. AP classes move through material very quickly, and it is important that you follow the calendar and keep up with the assignments. Mrs. Riedell is not going to spoon-feed you the information. Reading the textbook on occasion and writing notes in your BILL is very helpful to gain a full understanding of each unit. As for the tests, Mrs. Riedell puts together questions from recent AP tests. That being said they are more difficult than ordinary test questions. Reading the packet of FRQs and thoroughly collecting notes in your BILL will significantly help you succeed in the class. But AP Biology isn't just full of studying and tests. The two full lab days are very fun and provide a laid back setting for learning the material. Mrs. Riedell always incorporates activities and labs that help you to fully understand the topics.

Dear future student,

I highly suggest reading the textbook at the beginning of unit!! It will help a lot. Also use the study books to study for test. The tests are always harder than you would think. So prepare sooner than the night before. Take the Bill seriously it will help a lot!

Dear Future AP Biology Student,

Some helpful hints that will help you to succeed in this class is as followed:

- Do AP Bio every night: that includes reviewing what was gone over that day, future homework due, or Free Response Questions from past AP exams.
- Turn all of your homework in on time!!
- STUDY STUDY STUDY!!! For the chapter assessments more than a week before and more than half an hour each night...(At least three hours a night)
- Pay attention in class!!
- Take every lab day as serious as a regular class day

With these helpful hints you should succeed and do very well in this class!

## Letter to future students taking AP Bio:

Honestly, guys be prepared to learn a lot of information. Keep on top of your work because if you start to slack you will get so overwhelmed. Take it from me (being overwhelmed is a horrible experience). You will honestly have a love hate relationship with this class. Sometimes you'll hate the class, but sometimes you'll hate yourself for taking the class. But on other days you'll love yourself and the class, especially on lab days. Beware of tests! Make sure you study and not cram studying but throughout the week. And the last helpful tip I can give you guys is IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER SOMETHING YOU LEARNED FROM HONORS BIOLOGY, REVIEW IT AND GO BACK OVER IT. You'll regret this if you don't (I know our class did haha).

PS find the smartest kid in your class and become good friends with them. You won't regret it ☺

Dear Future Students,

Some major things you need to do to pass this class is study, study, more studying, and also we the chapters. Pay attention in class. Put as much as stuff as you can in your bills. Pay attention to details. Some things are boring but you still need to pay attention. Watch all the videos that Mrs. Reedell tells you to watch. Enjoy the class.

## Letter to Future AP Bio students

If you don't plan on studying in this class drop out today. You need to study if you want a good grade and you need to put time into the class.