July 2019

Dear Parents/Guardian and Student,

Welcome to the Advanced Placement Biology course offered at Pawling High School. My name is Gillian Rinaldo and I am really glad to welcome you and your child to the AP Biology course this year. I graduated from the State University at Oneonta with a major in Psychology and completed a post-baccalaureate program in Pre-medical Studies with a second degree in Biology at City College of NY. I later completed my Masters of Teaching in Adolescent Biology and General Science from Pace University. I am looking forward to getting to know each student in my class and their parents too.

AP Biology is a rigorous course that is designed to be the equivalent of TWO SEMESTERS of introductory biology courses during their first year of college.  Students who score high enough on the AP Exam can earn EIGHT (or more) credit hours, depending on their chosen university.  This course, therefore, moves rather quickly and class time focuses on discussions and activities.  Students are expected to be motivated, self-disciplined, willing to work as a team, persistent, and capable of both remembering details and seeing “the big picture”.  Biology is a tangible subject for most students, so this class will also focus on human health and global issues, as well as how the study of biology varies across different cultures.

The topics covered in this course are dictated by the College Board and include biochemistry, cell structure and function, cell energetics, cellular reproduction, cellular communication, heredity, molecular genetics, evolution, ecology, classification, plant structure and function, animal structure and physiology.   The expectation is for students to take the AP Biology exam in May, and this course will focus on preparing for the exam.

Students may access more information about the AP Biology College Board Examination at the following website: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_bio.html?biology>

Enclosed are the summer assignment requirements for entrance into the AP Biology program. The purpose of the summer assignment is to begin focusing on the course of study. The assignment is a requirement. The entire assignment must be completed by the first day of school in September. Please read the enclosed assignment carefully, as there are other deadlines prior to September. Failure to complete these assignments may result in removal from the course.

If you would like to contact me for any reason, please email me at [rinaldog@pcsdny.org](mailto:rinaldog@pcsdny.org).

Sincerely,



Gillian Rinaldo

[Rinaldog@pcsdny.org](mailto:Rinaldog@pcsdny.org)

[www.Rinaldog.com](http://www.Rinaldog.com)

Science Teacher

Pawling High School