AP BIOLOGY

Questions? Contact Mrs. Di Silvio at Rachel.disilvio@lcps.org or Mrs. Borgelt at Courtney.borgelt@lcps.org

- This advanced course is a college-level, fast-paced course that follows the course outline of the College Board's AP program.
- Equivalent to a 1 semester college laboratory science course.
- May earn college credit with an AP exam score of 3, 4, or 5.
- Students should have successfully completed biology and have taken or concurrently taking Chemistry.

Units in AP Biology:

- Biochemistry
- Cells
- Cellular Energetics
- DNA
- Genetics
- Evolution
- Classification
- Ecology
- Plants
- Human Body

Assignments:

- Expect to read and complete an outline or other assignment on a chapter before coming to class
- Labs that include formal lab write-ups
- Group projects and presentations

Assessments:

- Quiz on every chapter
- Group labs & projects
- Individual work & projects
- Tests timed & modeled after the AP exam

Workload:

- Expect a college-level workload
- Expect homework every day
- Expect a lot of vocabulary
- Expect a pre-course summer assignment

AP Exam:

- Given in May, 3 hours long
- 63 multiple choice questions
- 6 Grid-In questions
- 8 Free response questions (2 long, 6 short)

Description of AP Biology from the College Board:

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes—energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. Twenty-five percent of instructional time is devoted to hands-on laboratory work with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations. Investigations require students to ask questions, make observations and predictions, design experiments, analyze data, and construct arguments in a collaborative setting, where they direct and monitor their progress.

4 Big Ideas in AP Biology:

Big Idea 1: The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
Big Idea 2: Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
Big Idea 3: Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes
Big Idea 4: Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.