

Dr. Lawrence A. Misialek

Montini Catholic High School
19W070 16th Street
Lombard, IL 60148
630-383-6280
lmisialek@montini.org

Dear AP Biology Parents:

Congratulations. Your son/daughter has signed up to take Advanced Placement Biology at Montini Catholic High School. This course will cover the same material as a first year college biology for majors course. At the end of the year, they will have the opportunity to take the AP Examination which will be administered in early May.

In order to cover the necessary material effectively, students will be doing a lot of reading, study, and problem-solving on their own. The text we are using – **(12th Edition) by Campbell, Reece & Mitchell** – is a well-known first year college biology text, and is used in the biology for majors courses taught at many prominent universities. From past experience, those students who are successful in this class consistently spend an hour each evening after class reviewing the material, reading ahead, and completing the homework and lab work. Your encouragement to keep them on track will be important.

Schoology: [Click here for Schoology](#): Schoology will be active for your son or daughter by May 28th, after all current grades for this year are closed out. I will begin posting assignments (with due dates/times) on Schoology starting on June 7th. These must be completed on a regular basis by the due date/time.

Pearson: [Click here for Pearson My Lab and Mastering](#): Pearson is required by all who are taking this course. There is a registration sheet that **MUST** be used in order to register **and pay for** the online content of this course. I highly recommend getting the eText version of the book for a few good reasons. 1) Easy access as long as you have an internet connection (hardcover book is large and heavy) and 2) Easy to enter search terms to find information easily by just clicking on it (no need to leaf through an index). Here is the link to click on for the required student registration page: [Student registration sheet](#). There will be periodic assignments that must be done on Pearson by their due date/time.

My AP Classroom: (*This will start in August when School starts*) [Click here for My AP Classroom](#)
Students taking AP Biology will need to be signed up through AP Classroom in order to view video assignments and answer questions regarding those videos. There will be periodic assignments on this platform that must be done on AP Classroom by their due date/time.

During the summer: Students will be completing some readings and homework to be completed throughout the summer for this class. The assignments are all done online through either *Schoology* (online quizzes done at home) or through Pearson (questions that have to be answered). All assignments and reading quizzes will have due dates/times throughout the summer. **Please remind** your son or daughter that I give plenty of time to do the assignments and **I will not extend due dates**. It is important that these assignments are done in a timely manner. Good habits start now and there will be strict due dates for the summer assignments. Grades will be kept in Schoology until Rediker is ready in the fall semester when they will be entered into record. Since I give plenty of time to do assignments, I will not extend due dates for any reason. If the student is serious about taking this

course, then doing assignments early will be important to that student. *Moreover, I require monthly small group meetings during the summer and school year; minimum of 2. They will sign up with me. I will post updates of available times on Schoology using a posted shared Google Doc.* Participation in each meeting will be graded using a participation rubric. *Except for emergencies, 0s will be assigned for not meeting when agreed upon by student and teacher.*

During the school year: Students will be given regular assignments to be completed on either Schoology or on Pearson containing the chapter material to be uncovered, labs and tests for the week. Assignments must be conscientiously completed in order to understand the chapter concepts.

Most of the work is not particularly difficult conceptually: there is just a great deal of it. By the end of the year, students find that they have learned a tremendous amount of biology and have acquired study skills which will be extremely helpful to them throughout their college careers.

Required Meeting times during the school year: Attendance is critical with any advanced placement course and particularly so with biology. It will be difficult to master topics discussed during absences, so if you can schedule college visits/vacations during breaks it will be helpful. Normally school starts at 8:00 am. **If we have a lab/project or exam that requires extended time, I will post the time in Schoology in advance that we will be starting at 7:30 am. We will be meeting early periodically throughout the school year.** If your student has a 0 hour class, I will need to know this so that I can allow that student to show up on those days at about 7:50 am. This is not negotiable. If your son or daughter has other engagements, then they will need to change them. A student will be marked tardy if he/she shows up later than 7:30 am on those days that require it.

Please feel free to call or email me now or any time during the year if you have questions about the class. I am at 630-383-6280 or lmisialek@montini.org. I look forward to working with your son/daughter throughout this summer and the upcoming school year.

Lastly, your son or daughter should have provided you with a blue copy of their contract with me.

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Misialek
AP Biology Instructor

Parent: Please Sign & Date - _____
(or email confirmation to lmisialek@montini.org)