

**Ridge Point High School
Pre-AP Biology Syllabus
Ms. Lauren Merkel**

Room: L246
Phone: 281-634-0944
Conference period: 5th (9:15 - 10:00)
Lauren.Merkel@fortbendisd.com

Tutorials

Tuesday 2:45-3:15
Friday 6:50-7:20

If I am not available, you may go to any of the other Biology teachers' tutorials, which can be found outside my door or on the RPHS website.

Units of Study

Lab Safety / Scientific Processes	Evolution
Cell Structure and Function	Classification
Photosynthesis / Cellular Respiration	Ecology
Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis	Processes in Plants
Cell Reproduction	*Processes in Animals
*Genetics and DNA Technology	*Infectious Disease

***Unit may involve graphic images as they pertain to the state and district curriculum.**

Course Description

The primary objective of the course is to build a foundation for success in the college level AP courses to follow. The Pre-AP course places a higher priority on developing critical thinking skills by examining real world problems, and examining topics with more depth, sometimes at an increased pace.

Science Fair is required and essay responses are included on tests, which will involve synthesis, application, and evaluation of concepts. Students will be ultimately responsible for their learning; therefore, they should be organized, prepared, and motivated to learn every day.

Materials

- 2 Composition Notebooks - NO spiral, must be 100 sheets (200 pages) and college ruled
- College ruled notebook paper
- Paper towels
- Box of Kleenex
- 1 bottle of Elmer's glue

Suggested Supplies

- Colored pens (all the colors of the rainbow)
- Tape

Textbook

- Biology by Stephen Nowicki
- You will *not* receive a hard copy to take home.
- A class set will be available for use in class.
- How to access the Online Textbook
 - o Website: www.my.hrw.com
 - o Username: FBISD + 6-digit ID#
 - o Password: 6-digit ID#

Classroom Expectations

- Follow all school rules
- Be on time and prepared to learn
- Participate and do your best every day
- Follow directions the first time
- No food or drinks in the lab
- BE RESPECTFUL & RESPONSIBLE!

Re-Testing Policy

Progressive testing is the type of re-testing that the Biology team has decided on. With this system, each test is comprised of 50% new material and 50% of material from the previous test (within the current nine-weeks). Re-teaching is integrated into class time and spiraled in with the new material. The progressive test grade will replace the original test grade only if it is a higher score; if it is lower, the original test grade will remain. Every student has the opportunity to improve his or her grade with this type of testing.

Absences and Make-Up Work

Students will be given an equal amount of time to complete the work missed due to excused absence(s). Any **assignment due on the day you are absent** is to be turned in on the day you return. If you are absent **on a test day**, you should be prepared to take the test during class, on the day you return. If you are absent the **day before** a test and **no new material is covered**, you will be expected to take the test with the class.

Restroom, Homework & Late Work Policies

- *Students may use the restroom with teacher approval on a limited basis.
- *Students will be unable to use the restroom while they are actively testing.
- *Homework is due at the beginning of the period. Homework is to be turned into the appropriate location by the time the bell rings.
- *RPHS late work policy:
 - Daily Grades: First day late= -30%; 2+ days late= -50%
 - Major Grades: First day late= -25%; 2+ days late= -50%

Cell Phone Usage

Cell phone usage is handled at the discretion of the teacher. Cell phones should not be out at any time unless directed by the teacher. Failure to comply will result in confiscation and possible disciplinary action. During all tests/exams, cell phones will be collected and re-distributed at the end of class.