



## AP BIOLOGY SYLLABUS 2023-2024

### **The Teacher**

Welcome to AP Biology! My name is **Mrs. Wendel**. I am very excited about this school year and I look forward to being your biology teacher here at Rockwall-Heath High School. I may be contacted via the school's main phone number 972-772-2474 or email at: [terri.wendel@rockwallisd.org](mailto:terri.wendel@rockwallisd.org).

### **Classroom Expectations and Safety**

Class will be held in **room 5007** for lectures and scientific labs. This school year we will continue to follow current district and state guidelines regarding COVID-19. Safety in the classroom at all times is essential and a primary priority. To contribute to a safe environment, I expect students to respect themselves, others, the classroom, its contents, and me. I also expect students to be active participants in all classroom activities to ensure high academic success.

### **Materials and Supplies**

In order to be successful in AP Biology, students will need the following materials and supplies:

- Notebook paper
- Writing utensils
- Binder or folder is optional but highly encouraged for organizational needs
- A class set of scientific calculators will be provided while at school, however, students will need one for at home use. Cell phones can also be used as calculators.
- **Paper Towels or Clorox Wipes (or both)**

### **Tutorials**

My tutorial times are as follows: Tuesday morning (8:00-8:30) and Tuesday afternoon (3:50-4:20). I will **never** be available Wednesday morning due to my morning hallway duty.

### **Grading Policy**

In accordance with the Heath High School grading policy:

- Daily Grades are worth 30%  
Includes: homework, labs, quizzes, class work, and participation checks
- Major Grades are worth 70%  
Includes: exams, quizzes, formal lab reports, and projects

### **Daily Grades**

AP Biology falls under the advanced academics category and its role is to resemble college structure. Formative assignments done in class or assigned as homework may be subject to grading. Not every assignment will be graded, however, it is the expectation that students complete the work to help them prepare for unit, semester, and end of course exams. Daily grades are not eligible for redos.

### **Testing Redo**

Every student will be allowed to redo a unit test. The retest will be in an FRQ format and will be averaged with the original test grade. In order to retest students must have done the following: 1. One-pager 2. Complete AP classroom progress check 3. Tutorials or Test corrections

### **Absences**

When absent it is the responsibility of the student to makeup all missed assignments.

- Please check Canvas. Canvas contains a calendar and resources so students can stay on track with assignments from both at school and at home.
- Students can contact me before/after school or through email if there are questions regarding any missed assignments.

## Textbooks

A class set of our textbook, Principles of Life by Hillis, Sadava, Heller, and Price, will be used in class to supplement our learning. Students may elect to check out a textbook for at home use as well.

## Remind 101

Remind is a one-way communication service that I use for alerts and reminders. It is open to both students and parents. Simply text the message **@apibwendel** to the number **81010** to sign up. If 81010 does not work, try 972-362-9829.

## Website

My school website address is <https://www.rockwallisd.com/site/Default.aspx?PageID=6863>

It contains links to important information, including:

- Course Syllabus
- Links to Resources (Skyward, Canvas, etc.)

## Canvas

We will be using Canvas to support our learning this year. Students are required to check it regularly. Canvas will house class announcements, a complete calendar of each term, and course resources.

<https://rockwallisd.instructure.com/courses/36602>

## AP Classroom

AP Students will be required to enroll and use AP Classroom. AP Classroom has practice AP questions, practice AP tests, and excellent review videos.

2<sup>nd</sup> Period Code: NDLWLJ

4<sup>th</sup> Period Code: WZZGWL

3<sup>rd</sup> Period Code: V23PER

5<sup>th</sup> Period Code: V797NM

## End of Year Testing

In addition to passing and earning credit for the high school portion of AP Biology, our main objective is score well on the AP exams at the end of the year. This course will be taught similar to a college course in order to adequately prepare students for the exam and for collegiate level courses in their future. We will continuously strive to increase rigor throughout the year through reading, writing, and lab work. More information about the end of year tests, including when and how to register, will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

## Fall Units

1. Chemistry of Life
2. Cell Structure & Function
3. Cellular Energetics
4. Cell Communication & Cell Cycle

## Spring Units

5. Heredity
6. Gene Expression & Regulation
7. Natural Selection
8. Ecology