

Dear Student,

Congratulations on being selected to be in the Advanced Placement Biology class at Menlo-Atherton High School. This upcoming year will be fast-paced and challenging, yet ultimately rewarding. To ensure that you can do well from the onset, you should do the following:

1. Pick up a class text from the library. Before you go, to ensure that they are open, call 322-5311 x 50161. You can also go to www.mabears.org and click on the "Library & Media Center" link at the bottom to find out their hours. NOTE: they are not open on the weekends.
2. When you get your textbook, also get an access code for the E-Textbook/website for the textbook. You'll register at www.pearsonschool.com/access, but once you have a login and password, you'll use it at www.masteringbiology.com. Make special note of your login and password, you'll be using the website for several assignments over the course of the year.
3. Familiarize yourself with the website for the textbook. There are many animations, activities, virtual flashcards, practice quizzes, and other tools that can help you a lot. There's even supposedly a downloadable version of the text for ipods/ipads/iphones.
4. Read Ch. 1-10. You should take **HAND WRITTEN** detailed notes (in a separate spiral bound notebook that will be used exclusively for reading notes).
 - This is NOT to be done on computer or to include photocopies unless you have special circumstances/needs that you discuss with me IN ADVANCE (and merely being a messy or slow hand writer is not sufficient, the practice will help you prepare for timed essays) in preparation for ongoing open-note reading quizzes that will begin early next year.
 - Be sure to include both %big picture+concepts as well as the important details/terms/examples.
 - Read the %Examples of Reading Notes+handout to get a sense of how to do the notes.
 - These 10 chapters will be covered in the first 6 weeks of class. Be sure to put in the time it takes to understand what you are writing, and use your notes to organize the concepts and facts in a way that helps you learn the material.
 - Simple lists of vocabulary words and their definitions alone are not sufficient.
 - There is an "Active Reading Guide" that is available that you can use to supplement your reading notes. It is a workbook with questions, etc that guide your understanding of what you are reading. They may be available online at Amazon, etc. ISBN10: 0132603861 ISBN13: 9780132603867 or from Pearson at www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PS1294&PMDbProgramId=78581&elementType=programComponents. The reading guide is roughly halfway down the page
3. Collect and organize your Biology/Environmental Science notes and review them to refresh your memory, especially about topics such as cell structure/function and DNA. Review your Chemistry notes on atoms, bonds, acids/bases, concentration, pH/buffers, and the basics of chemical reactions.
4. It is recommended that you skim over Ch. 11-17, at least the chapter summaries, to introduce yourself to those topics.
5. Be prepared to take a pretest within the two weeks that will assess your initial base of knowledge and how well you read during the summer.

I look forward to teaching you next year. Enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,
Patrick Roisen
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