 **Welcome to AP Biology**

**With Mr. Setzer!**

**Email: Noah.Setzer@ucps.k12.nc.us**

**Dear Student & Parent(s) or Guardian(s),**

Hi, and welcome to Mr. Setzer’s AP Biology class! I am very excited to work alongside you and your student to make this a fun and successful semester. This is an Advanced Placement level science course, so we will tend to move through basic content very quickly and spend more time on extension activities that will provide a greater challenge and deepen student learning. This often requires more time spent at home learning basic content, while more time is spent in class completing labs, research investigations, discussions, simulations, and other problem and project-based learning. Due to the fast pace of the course, each student may fall behind at times. Students must know that the ultimate responsibility for learning is on them, so they must take initiative to ask for help, attend office hours, and study and work a little extra in order to reach their potential in the class.

I believe that **support from home is the most essential part** of each student’s success. It is important that you keep up with your student’s grades and attendance, which you can do online through the Parent Portal! Please be mindful that a report card will be sent home every six weeks, and that progress reports are available halfway between report cards.

If you ever have questions or concerns about your student, please feel free to contact me via email at **Noah.Setzer@ucps.k12.nc.us**. You may also reach me by calling Porter Ridge. Please complete the contact information listed below so that I may contact you should the need arise. Thank you for your cooperation. I look forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,

Noah Setzer

**Supply List for AP Biology** (bring these every day!)

1. One-Inch Three-Ring Binder w/ 10 Tab Dividers
2. Notebook Paper, Pencils, Pens (blue or black ink)
3. Colored Pencils, Highlighters, Red Pens, Sticky Notes
4. Google ChromeBook (school-issued laptop computer)
5. Barron’s AP Biology Review Book (6th or 7th ed.)

**Course Description:** Students will learn about a wide array of topics that represent the content from the first two semesters of college Biology. The majority of the content builds on what was already learned in Biology I. The course is focused on applying concepts through critical thinking, problem solving, and completing hands-on and simulated lab activities.

**The AP Biology Exam:** On Wed. May 11, 2022, students will take the CollegeBoard AP Biology exam. Scores range from 1-5, and do not count toward the student’s grade in the course. Scores from 3-5 are considered “passing” and allow students to ***earn*** ***between 3 and 8 college credit hours***, depending on the college they attend. If you would like to search for information about specific colleges, go to this link: ***https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies***

**Homework:** Students will have an average of 30 minutes to an hour of homework every night. Learning basic concepts at home will be necessary to keep up with activities and assessments in class. Please contact me if you find that your student’s homework and studies are requiring an excessive time commitment.

**Online Access:** Many course materials and assignments will be accessed and/or submitted through the ***Canvas*** online learning platform. The grade book is accessed through ***PowerSchool***.

**Main Topics of the Course:**

- Science Practices—Applying Skills in the Lab and Research

- The Chemistry of Living Things

- Inner-Workings of the Cell

- DNA, Genetics, and Epigenetics

- Mutations, Cancer, and Disease

- Regulation and Control of Biological Processes

- Evolution and the Unity and Diversity of Life on Earth

- Biotechnology –Applications & Ethics

- Anatomy & Physiology (Humans, Animals, and Plants)

- Responses and Behaviors

- Ecology & Human Impact on the Planet

**OFFICE HOURS**! After school every **Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 – 3:30**, or other times by appointment. Students may come to receive extra support in a one-on-one or small group environment. When a student is misses a day of class, I expect that he/she will attend office hours to catch up on lessons and make up assignments.

**Grading:** Students should assume that every assignment will be graded unless otherwise stated. Grades are by category, with each assignment in a category having its own weight.

***Estimate of point values for different assignments:***

**Tests**: 40%

**Quizzes:** 20%

**Classwork/Homework**: 30%

**In-Class Performance**: 10%

**Additional Resources**: “EmpowerED Family Portal” Link:

***https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/domain/2917***

This page provides parents with links to online resources and apps that students can access.