

# BERKS CATHOLIC

Christ Centered Academic Excellence

**COURSE TITLE:** AP Biology

**INSTRUCTOR:** Mrs. Mary Ann Buchanan

**ACADEMIC YEAR:** 2014 - 2015

**COURSE TEXTBOOK:** *Biology* by Campbell & Reece

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVE:** To provide students with the conceptual framework, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology with emphasis on three main areas: Molecules and Cells, Heredity and Evolution, and Organisms and Populations. To help students gain an appreciation of science as a process.

**METHOD OF GRADING:**

A. Quarter:

1. Homework - 10%
2. Lab work - 30%
3. Tests & Quizzes - 55%
4. Special assignments - 5%

Quarter grading is done on a point system. The percents listed above represent the percentage of total points given to each category. (Example: homework = 70 points out of a total of 700 points in the quarter).

B. First Semester:

1. First and second quarter grades - 80%
2. Exam - 20%

C. Second Semester

1. Third quarter grade - 50%
2. Fourth quarter grade - 50%

D. Final Grade:

1. Average of first and second semester grades

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Homework:
  - A. Reading - every night
  - B. Written - at least one assignment per week (may be lab report)
  - C. Tests - one per unit, usually includes several chapters
  - D. Exams - Midterm
  - E. AP Exam - consistent with Berks Catholic High School policy

**CLASS POLICIES:**

1. Tests, assignments, and lab reports are usually returned within two to three days. Because of this, it is not a general policy to tolerate late assignments. The student will be required to sign a contract, which outlines the late policy. It is also expected that tests be made up within two days of return to school following an absence. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange to make up missed work. **There will be consequences if a student is repeatedly absent (more than twice) on the day of a major test.**
2. Assignments are to be handed in on theme/loose-leaf paper. Points will be deducted from work handed in on other paper.
3. Most lab work missed should be made up. Sometimes when lab work involves living organisms or solutions with short shelf life, this will not be possible.
4. Special projects will be assigned during the year. The projects may be library research, oral presentations or debates.

5. Laboratory safety rules should be followed at all times as listed in the guidelines. Failure to do so may result in suspension of laboratory privileges.
6. Students must bring proper materials for class. Materials include text book (covered at all times), note book, pen or pencil and lab book (as directed).  
Please understand that these are general policies. There are times when it is necessary to examine individual circumstances. (For example, if a student experienced a prolonged illness, they would not be expected to take tests missed within the prescribed two days).
7. Students enrolling for dual credit are responsible for following all procedures outlined and described in the syllabus.

**PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION:**

Please feel free to communicate with me at any time throughout the year. This can be done by contacting the school office or through email. Email can be accessed through the Berks Catholic High School web site.