

May 22, 2002

Dear Prospective AP Biology Student,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that you are currently listed on the 2002-2003 roster for Advanced Placement Biology. Taking the AP Biology course will give you the opportunity to accept the challenge of learning at the first year college level while still in high school. Students who have successfully completed honors biology and honors chemistry with an "A / B" average are eligible to take AP Biology. There are many benefits to taking AP Biology:

- 1) Colleges are interested in students who are willing to do the hard work required for success in an AP course;
- 2) Students increase their chances for admission to the college of their choice because they have demonstrated their ability to do college level work;
- 3) Students can save about \$2500 in college tuition by earning a year's college credit in biology while still in high school;
- 4) Students gain additional time in college for electives;
- 5) Students will benefit from becoming better acquainted with the fascinating and challenging field of biological science.

As your teacher, my responsibilities will focus on helping you organize your study activities so that you can successfully take the **AP Biology exam on May 12th**. Students who receive a sufficiently high mark on the exam (a 3,4,or 5) are given recognition by more than 1500 colleges and universities that grant either college credit for the first year of biology or exemption from taking the college's general biology course or both. **As an AP Biology student, your responsibilities will focus on reading all assigned chapters, completing all required labs and homework, and studying.**

Modern biology consists of many different disciplines, each characterized with an explosion of new information. Because of this volume of information and the concepts tested on the AP Biology exam, I am asking that you begin preparing for the class this summer. Doing this will allow us to move more quickly through the introductory chapters and therefore have more time for the difficult chapters.

VERY IMPORTANT: I am asking that you do the following during the summer:

- 1) Purchase **Cliffs Advanced Placement Biology Preparation Guide** (available at Borders, Barnes and Noble, or Amazon.com for \$14.95). You will find this to be a valuable tool though out the school year.
- 2) **Read Chapters 1 - 6** (Unit 1) in the **Campbell Biology** textbook (Stop by class (room 222) or the Science TPA (room 229) during your homeroom period, before or after school prior to exam days to pick up your text).
- 3) If you have access to the Internet, go to **www.collegeboard.org** web site. Type "AP Biology" in the "subject" box and read all information related to AP Biology.
- 4) If you have an email address, **please email me your name** and the message "Future student " so that I may add your email address to my "Address Book". Please do this by June 20th. This will allow me to send you pertinent info during the summer. My email address is **bioteachca@aol.com**.

If you have any questions regarding the class, the summer assignment or other, please come by my room (222) or my office (229). I look forward to working with you as we tackle the challenging year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carmen Austin

P.S. Remember to pick up the AP Biology textbook during homeroom, before or after school prior to either exam day. I will be in the Science TPA (room 229) during homeroom and 4th / 5th periods. I will be in my room (222) during 1st and 3rd period.