

Welcome to Pre AP Biology with Ms. Mitchell!

Room: Q5

Email: jmitchell@lodiUSD.net

Class Website: <http://biologywithmsmitchell.weebly.com/>

This year you will learn about how the living world works around you and how many of the things inside of you work (since you are a biological being after all). We live in an increasingly scientific world and many of the major decisions you make in your life can be influenced by your understanding of biological concepts we will learn about in this class.

Pre AP Biology is designed to help prepare you to take AP Biology in the future. You can expect this class to move quickly to ensure that we sufficiently cover all of the material you need to know for AP Biology. Be prepared to work hard!

Materials – you must have these with you every single day!

- ☒ 3 ring notebook containing all of your notes and assignments
- ☒ Notebook paper
- ☒ Pen and pencil (sharpened before class)
- ☒ Question of the Day Calendar
- ☒ Colored pencils (recommended)

In your notebook, you will keep ALL of your notes, labs, and assignments. This is important for 2 reasons: (1) you will use these materials to study for your quizzes and exams, and (2) if you throw away your work then you have no proof that you did the work if there is an inputting error with *eSchools*.

Assignments

In order to learn and do well in my class you will be expected to complete a variety of assignments, including labs, in-class activities, homework assignments, and major projects throughout the year. You will be held accountable for what you have learned in class with regular quizzes and tests throughout the year. Each semester you will have a cumulative final exam that will include all concepts covered in that semester.

Late Work Policy

To be successful in my class and learn the material it is necessary to do all of your work and turn it in on time. I will NOT accept work more than 2 days late. These are the penalties for late work:

- 1 day late = 30% of the total possible points automatically deducted
- 2 days late = 50% of the total possible points automatically deducted

Absent Work

It is YOUR responsibility to find out what notes and assignments you missed if you were absent. You will be given as many days as you were gone to finish and turn in the assignment(s) you missed and make up a quiz or test that you may have missed. When you return from your absence, you must:

- Turn in any work that was due when you were gone in the inbox on Ms. Mitchell's desk.
- Collect worksheets/assignments from absent file in filing cabinet.
- Copy any notes you missed from a friend or Ms. Mitchell. If they were in a PowerPoint then they will be posted on the class website.
- Answer the Question of the Day and write down the homework on your weekly calendar (posted in the front of the class).
- If a video or class activity was missed then you may complete an extra credit assignment (see below) to make up that work.

For longer absences, you must meet with Ms. Mitchell outside of class (before school, during lunch, or after school) to get all of your make-up work.

KEEP THIS IN YOUR NOTEBOOK

Grading

Grading in this class is based on a point system. Grades are not weighted; however, major projects and exams will be a larger portion of your grade than labs, in-class assignments, and homework. The grades you receive will be based on accuracy, completeness, and how much effort was put into the assignments. Here is a breakdown of grades and what the work should show in order to receive those grades:

A = 90 – 100%	B = 80 – 89%	C = 70 – 79%	D = 60 – 69%	F = below 60%
Excellent Work!	Good Work!	Average Work	Inadequate Work	Unacceptable Work
Consistently demonstrates understanding of the concepts covered in class and strives to learn more, has no missing assignments, and consistently goes above and beyond the requirements of the assignments.	Consistently demonstrates understanding of the concepts, has almost no missing assignments, and puts in enough effort to just meet the requirements of the assignments.	Shows understanding of most of the concepts, has some missing assignments or some assignments are incomplete. Consistent absences and tardies may also contribute to a C grade.	Consistently does not demonstrate understanding of many concepts covered in class, little effort is put into assignments, and has many missing assignments. Consistent absences and tardies can contribute to a D grade.	No effort in class or assignments, does not demonstrate understanding of the concepts covered in class. Consistent absences and tardies can contribute to a Failing grade.

Science Literacy Assignment

Each quarter you are required to read and summarize 2 articles about biology-related topics. The purpose of this assignment is to extend your learning about biology concepts beyond the four walls of our classroom. I want you to get a chance to read about authentic science research that is happening today and to see how the things you are learning about in class are relevant in our world. Your two summaries must be completed and turned in before the last two weeks of the quarter. Your summaries must follow these criteria and you may not copy any portion of the article without proper citations:

- If you write the summary by hand, it must be single-spaced and fill the front side of college-rule notebook paper.
- If you type the summary, it must be double-spaced with a one-inch border.
- You MUST attach a copy of the article in order to receive credit.
- Use sources like Scientific American (<http://www.scientificamerican.com/>), Nature Journal (<http://www.nature.com/>), or Science News Magazine (<http://www.sciencenews.org/>). Also, look in the science section of major news sources like New York Times, SF Chronicle, MSNBC, or CNN.
- Do NOT use Wikipedia, How Stuff Works, About.com or any other encyclopedia-like source. You will not receive any credit.

Bathroom Passes

You will receive 2 bathroom passes each quarter. If you need to use the bathroom you must put your name, date, and the time on your bathroom pass and give to me before you will be given a hall pass. You will not be excused to use the bathroom during lecture, presentations, or within the first or last 10 minutes of class. Come to class knowing this!!! A bathroom pass may also be used to turn in late work and not receive any deductions. Late work will still not be accepted more than 2 days after it was due.

Behavior Expectations – These expectations are intended to help you succeed in class, help your peers succeed, and make sure you and your peers are safe.

1. Be in your seat and prepared with all necessary materials (Question of the Day calendar out, pencil/pen, binder, completed homework, etc.) on your desk *when the bell rings*.
2. Participate in classroom activities and work hard.
3. Respect yourself, other students, and the teacher. Behavior that interferes with other students' opportunities to learn is very disrespectful and will not be tolerated. Be aware of how your behavior affects other students that are trying to learn.
4. Respect and care for the classroom and class resources (use equipment properly, no writing/drawing on desks, leave the classroom clean, etc.).
5. The only thing you may have to eat or drink in my classroom is water... in a bottle... that has a cap on it.
6. Complete and turn in all assignments on time.
7. Use language and behavior that is appropriate for the classroom: no profanity or insults – even if it is “joking around with my friend”.
8. Listen to/read directions carefully. They are always provided for you verbally and written. Ask questions if you need more direction.
9. Cell phone use is not allowed in class – no texting/checking text messages, calling, checking voicemail, tweeting...
10. iPods and MP3 players are not to be used in class. Please put them AND earphones out of sight during class.
11. Be honest and have integrity! Working with others is encouraged but your work must reflect your correct ideas and be in your own words. Cheating is not tolerated. If you copy someone's work, quiz, or test you will receive a zero on the assignment. If you LET someone copy your work you also will receive a zero on the assignment. If this happens more than once your parents and the administration will be notified.

Consequences for Misbehavior

You will first be given a verbal warning. If you have to be warned a second time you will receive a 20-minute after school detention with me and your parents/guardians will be notified. For severe misbehavior you will be sent to the office and suspended from class for the day. In this case, you will not receive credit for work done in class that day. All suspensions are unexcused absences and you cannot make up the work.

My Students' Expectations of Me

1. I will treat all students with respect.
2. I will grade fairly and consistently.
3. I will grade assignments, quizzes, and tests as quickly as possible and grades will be entered into *eSchools* as soon as possible. I want you to have feedback on your work as soon as possible to help inform you about what you are learning and how well you are doing in class.
4. I will work hard to make class interesting.
5. I will be available for help during office hours (at least once every two weeks, but will be announced at the beginning of each week and posted on the website) or by appointment.

Pre AP Biology Parent Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am looking forward to having your student in my Pre AP Biology class this year! I enjoy teaching Biology and it is my goal to provide all students with the tools they need to learn and succeed in my class. It is also my goal to help students develop skills that will help them succeed in higher education and the workplace once they leave Bear Creek High School. I believe that the support and involvement of my students' parents and guardians is immensely important for students' success in school. I encourage you to regularly check your student's progress in my class on *eSchools* as I try to update it as regularly as possible. A website for the class (<http://biologywithmsmitchell.weebly.com/index.html>) has also been set up and will be updated regularly with PowerPoints from the lectures, announcements, and helpful resources.

Please fill out the form below and have your student return it to me. If you have any questions, concerns, or information about your student that may help me better work with them, please send me an email or leave a message on the Science Department's phone line. I often respond quicker to email, but the messages on the department line are checked about once each day.

Sincerely,

Jessica Mitchell
Bear Creek High School
(209) 953-8542 (*Science Department*)
jmitchell@lodiUSD.net

Pre AP Biology Parent Acknowledgment Form

Student's Name: _____

I acknowledge that my student has given me the opportunity to carefully read the syllabus for his or her Pre AP Biology class. I understand that my student is required to follow all procedures and expectations listed in the syllabus. I acknowledge that I have received the contact information for my student's teacher, and I will contact the teacher if I have any questions regarding my student's performance or progress in Pre AP Biology.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's phone number

Parent/Guardian's email address