

Greetings 2025-2026 AP Biologists!

Next year proves to be an exciting year in AP Biology! While I understand that this school year is still coming to an end and the summer is just beginning, I wanted to take this time to give you some information about your class.

Advanced Placement Biology follows the standards set by the College Board. It is an intensive study of the living world. Many of the processes and relationships that surround life will be examined. To discover more about the content of the course, and information concerning the AP Exam visit: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-biology>

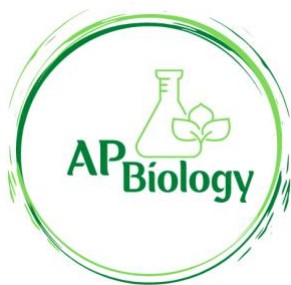
At Nutley High School, the class is designed to:

1. Provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology.
2. Enhance an appreciation and understanding of science, inviting the use and appreciation of this discipline on an everyday basis.
3. Prepare students to take the AP Biology Exam.

What students can do to prepare:

I have found that students that are generally interested in science (how things work) get more out of the course. This summer I ask you to:

1. Choose a title from this list of suggestions and read it. You may be asked to discuss your selection on the first day of school – Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins, Ever Since Darwin: Reflections in Natural History by Stephen Gould, The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the structure of DNA by James Watson, Symbiotic Planet: A New Look at Evolution by Lynn Margulis, In the Shadow of Man by Jane Goodall, Timeline by Michael Crichton, Hot Zone by Richard Preston, The Lives of a Cell: Notes from a Biology Watcher by Lewis Thomas, The Universe in a Nutshell by Stephen Hawking, Chromosome 6 by Robin Cook
2. Read the news and catch/stay up on current science events.
3. Review freshman biology and sophomore chemistry. There are some excellent AP prep books available at bookstores, libraries, and online. Cliffs notes for AP Biology will be provided for all students enrolled in our course.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jsimko@nutleyschools.org

Best wishes for an enjoyable and fulfilling summer!

Sincerely,
Mr. Simko