**Welcome Letter to AP students and Parents**

I am looking forward to a challenging year of AP Biology with you, and would like to take this opportunity to explain the AP program to each of you so that you might understand what you are getting into and what you might expect to gain from this course.

The Advanced Placement Program of the College Board is designed to let students in high school obtain college credit by examination. Please visit the College Board Website; it has a wealth of information.

The AP Biology exam administered in the spring. The AP Biology exam is three hours long, with two sections that take up an hour and a half each. The multiple-choice section has **69 questions** in total, while the free-response section has **eight questions** in total. While the College Board sets a standard of 3 as a passing score, each college or university sets its own guidelines for the granting of credit for performance on the AP Exam. Typically, a student may receive between four and eight semester hours of credit in biology, depending on their performance on the Exam. In Biology, a large number of institutions only grant credit for grades of 4 or 5, awarding of credit is up to each individual institution.

AP Biology is a very demanding, fast-paced and intense college level class. The topics are challenging and for most people require a big investment in time and thought. Enrolling in AP Biology means that you are ready to undertake the challenge of learning new study habits as well as new ideas. To succeed in AP Biology, students must be highly motivated to learn. Reading requirements for the course are rigorous and require a **daily** commitment in order to stay caught up in the class. The learning curve in the first few months will be steep but well worth the climb. Make sure you are able to prioritize your time and put in the time required for this class. Your success in and enjoyment of this class will directly reflect the amount of energy and dedication you invest. Together with a lot of hard work we can all have a fun and successful year in AP Biology.

Advanced Placement Biology places an emphasis on making connections between the four big ideas within the AP Biology Curriculum Framework. The two main goals of AP Biology are to help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and an appreciation of science as a process.

I am here to help you whenever you ask, and will work with you to facilitate your success. I look forward to collaborating with you and feel sure that you will learn a great deal.