Dear Student,

Congratulations on being selected to be in the Advanced Placement Biology class at Menlo-Atherton High School. This upcoming year will be fast-paced and challenging, yet ultimately rewarding. To ensure that you can do well from the onset, you should do the following:

\*\*Special note for Summer 2020\*\*- we’re getting a new textbook, it’s unclear when it will physically arrive, but you can get an access code that will make an electronic version immediately available. Read below:

1. Towards the end of summer, pick up a class text from the library (see note above). Before you go, to ensure that they are open by checking the MA website. You can go to www.mabears.org and click on the "Students" tab and select the Library link at the bottom to find out their hours. NOTE: they are not open on the weekends.

2. Attached to the same email as this announcement is a sheet explaining how to get online access. Follow the instructions on the sheet with your course and access codes CAREFULLY. Make special note of your login and password, you’ll be using the website for several assignments over the course of the year. If you’ve not gotten the email, contact me at proisen@seq.org

3. Familiarize yourself with the website for the textbook. There are many animations, activities, virtual flashcards, practice quizzes, and other tools that can help you a lot. There's even supposedly a downloadable version of the text for phones and tablets.

4. Using the website’s e-text, read Ch. 1-6. You should take **HAND WRITTEN** detailed notes (in a separate spiral bound notebook that will be used exclusively for reading notes.

* This is NOT to be done on computer or to include photocopies unless you have special circumstances/needs that you discuss with me IN ADVANCE (and merely being a messy or slow hand writer is not sufficient, the practice will help you prepare for timed essays) in preparation for ongoing open-note reading quizzes that will begin early next year. Another reason to handwrite your notes is research has demonstrated you tend to retain more information that way.
* Be sure to include both “big picture” concepts as well as the important details/terms/examples.
* Many students find copying some key diagrams/flowcharts helpful, but it is not required.
* Read the “Examples of Reading Notes” handout to get a sense of how to do the notes. Note: the example text is from a previous book, but it remains a valid example.
* These 6 chapters will be covered in the first 6 weeks of class. Be sure to put in the time it takes to understand what you are writing, and use your notes to organize the concepts and facts in a way that helps you learn the material.
* Simple lists of vocabulary words and their definitions alone are not sufficient.

3. Collect and organize your Biology notes and review them to refresh your memory, especially about topics such as cell structure/function and DNA as well as ecology. Review your Chemistry notes on atoms, bonds, acids/bases, concentration, pH/buffers, and the basics of chemical reactions.

4. It is recommended that you skim over Ch. 9-15, at least the chapter summaries, to introduce yourself to those topics.

I look forward to teaching you next year. Enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

Patrick Roisen

proisen@seq.org