

May 18, 2009

2009-2010 AP Biology - GSMST

Dear Future AP Biology Student:

Welcome to AP Biology! Even as this year draws to a close, we are making preparations for AP Biology for 2009-2010. This letter, and the brochure which accompanies it, explains the summer assignments that you will need to complete prior to returning to school in the fall. The AP Biology course program covers a large amount of material and these assignments will increase the amount of class time we will have to spend on more difficult material. The summer assignments will cover the major concepts of ecology, some of which should be familiar to you from your middle school life science coursework. At GSMST there are two AP Biology teachers, Dr. Susan Kramer and Dr. Melissa Kinard. We do not yet know which teacher you will have next year so, for the summer work, you will be randomly assigned to either Dr. Kramer or Dr. Kinard.

You will submit your summer assignments over the Internet using a service called Webassign. This on-line service reminds you of assignment deadlines and provides immediate feedback about your answers and the scores you earn on these assignments. In addition, Webassign is a communication center for AP Biology as it is where we, the instructors, post useful information. There will be a fee of \$10.00 for this service. It will be collected in August.

Most of the summer assignments are multiple choice quizzes. For each quiz, you will have a number of "submissions" possible. This means you can take a quiz, see your mistakes, go back through your material, and then have the opportunity to correct your mistakes. The brochure will explain how to register on Webassign. Once registered, you will have access to your assignments and their due dates. It is recommended that you download each assignment and make a hard copy to work on, submit your initial answers, obtain feedback, review the material, and then make your corrections.

Your first assignment, an introductory assignment, will be due before school is out so that we can be certain that you are able to access the service. If for any reason you will be unable to access the Internet at any time during the summer, please plan ahead so that you can print out paper versions and/or request extensions. If you do not have Internet access in your home, you may use computers at the Gwinnett County Public libraries to access your assignments and make your submissions.

The brochure will also provide you with information about how to access your online text. This is the text you will read in order to be able to complete the online assignments. The online book has many study aids and features to help you with the material. Please explore them all.

We are looking forward to a great year.

Respectfully,

Susan Kramer
AP Biology Teacher

Melissa Kinard
AP Biology Teacher