

AP BIOLOGY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Assignment 1: Purchase and read "Survival of the Sickest" by Dr. Sharon Moalem. This book will introduce you to the wonderful, exciting world of living organisms, investigating the riddles behind many diseases that seem to be inexplicably wired into our genetic code and the interconnection to evolution. Please be prepared to discuss this book on Day 1 of the 2009-2010 school year.

Assignment 2: As is true of most AP courses, the syllabus for AP Biology is so long that each year we have trouble covering everything I'd like. I assume next year will be no different in this regard. In an attempt to get a head start on next year's work, I want you to undertake the following summer assignment. I recommend doing this during the last two weeks before school starts, so the material will be fresh in your mind when we get together. It will also give you a chance to **organize your notebook** (you should plan on taking lots of notes from both reading and class discussions).

Read the first four chapters of your textbook – Biology by Campbell and Reece. The first chapter, "Introduction: Exploring Life", will introduce you to several central concepts of biology and to "the scientific method", a powerful way of knowing about the world. **This chapter is worth reading a few times** (maybe early in the summer and then again when you begin this assignment for real), not for specific content, but to become familiar with how biologists think and the questions they are interested in. The ideas in this chapter will recur over and over again during the year.

Chapters 2 through 4 should be largely review of some of the chemistry you learned last year. Of course, the emphasis here is on the application of chemistry to biology, and it is to this aspect that you should pay particular attention.

As (after) you read the assigned material, answer the questions on the reading guide as completely and thoughtfully as you can. These should be turned in on Day 1 of the 2009-10 year. I also recommend that you get in the habit of answering the "**Self Quiz**" questions that are at the end of every chapter except Ch. 1. The answers to these questions are in Appendix A of your book. Also, each short section of a chapter ends with a "**Concept Check**". Again, suggested answers are in Appendix A.

Lastly, your text comes with a CD. Explore what resources it makes available to you. I also will give you a code to access a web site that is devoted to the text we are using. At some point, we may use the ability of this web site to have your answers to quizzes or other questions sent to me.

Have a great summer.

"You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him to find it for himself." G. Galilei