AP Biology
COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year: 2026-2027
Teacher: Mrs. Kirby
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Our Mission: "To Restore All Things in Christ." - Pope Pius X

Course Overview

AP Biology is a college-level introductory biology course designed to develop students' understanding of the core principles governing living systems. Organized around the College Board AP Biology framework, the course emphasizes four Big Ideas: evolution, cellular processes and energy, information storage and transfer, and biological systems interactions. Students investigate biological concepts through inquiry-based laboratory experiences, quantitative reasoning, data analysis, scientific argumentation, and evidence-based communication. Topics include chemistry of life, cell structure and function, cellular energetics, cell communication, heredity, gene expression, natural selection, and ecology. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to take the AP Biology Exam and will have developed skills relevant to college study, scientific research, health professions, environmental science, and other STEM fields.

Classroom Expectations

- Give every task your best effort! Be confident in your intelligence, you've got this.
- RESPECT others' work, ideas, belongings and space. Anything that is not yours should either be not touched, or, only with permission, handled with care.
- Do your OWN work, it's the only way to learn! Copying someone else's work is cheating. Using AI instead of your brain is a waste of your God given gifts and will not be tolerated.
- See SPX Cell Phone policy above.
- All purses will be kept on the side table/designated area. Don't want to leave it on the table, don't bring it to the lab.
- Enter and leave the room in a respectful manner. All students should enter from the north stairwell door. The "lab" door will be locked at all times.
- BE SAFE, This is a science class. The more responsible and mature you show me you can be as a group, the more exciting experiments we can attempt!
- NO food, drinks (except water) or gum in the science lab. *No exceptions*. During a lab day, all water bottles will be kept in a designated area.
- No outside computer devices allowed in class.
- Bring your planner - it is your responsibility to have it with you at all times. Don't have it, you will not be allowed to leave during class (ie; bathroom requests).
- Please ensure you're following the dress code as described in the Student Handbook. Demerits/referrals will be given if you are in violation.
- All Student Expectations stated in the St. Pius X HIgh School Student Handbook will be observed in this classroom.

Required Materials for Class

- 1- 2" or 3" Binder
- Pen and Pencil
- Tabs for organization, optional but may be useful.
- Scientific Calculator (graphing also acceptable)
- A spiral notebook AND a packet of college ruled paper

Technology Policy

Cell phones are NOT allowed in the classroom.

The Cell Phone (Device) Policy at St. Pius X High School is as follows:

- On the first offense, the student's phone (device) will be confiscated and an immediate referral to administration resulting in documenting the violation and an immediate detention
- On the second offense, the cell phone (device) will be confiscated and the student will be suspended for at least one full school day. The student will forfeit the privilege of having their phone in the school and would be **required** to check their phone into the Assistant Principals office prior to the start of each school day
- For the third or any additional offense, should a student not turn in their cell phone (device) prior to the start of the school day, the student will be sent home and suspended for a minimum of one full school day
- Students may of course opt into leaving their phone at home and not bringing it to school. The student is responsible for speaking with either Assistant Principal to discuss the necessary steps needed (should they have had a prior cell phone/device policy offense)

School issued chromebooks will be allowed on specific classroom days, as scheduled by the instructor.
No outside computers/tablets are allowed for use in the classroom.

Cheating

Cheating and plagiarism of the work of others will absolutely not be tolerated and will result in a zero for that assignment or test in the first instance. The second instance will result in a 0 in the course. AI in place of your human brain doing classroom work or homework is considered cheating. If you have a question about whether or not your work is considered plagiarism, please ask!

Late Work/Absences

Students will be allowed the same number of days as the absence to turn in assignments or make up tests. It is the student's responsibility to make up for any missed work in a timely manner. Absent assignments will immediately be recorded as a zero, but students will receive full credit once the assignment is turned in (if done within the specified time frame). Students will lose 10% per late school day, with no credit possible after 10 school days.

Revision Policy

Students may "revise" exit tickets for half credit back. Homework, Labs, Quizzes, Tests, Exams and Projects may not be revised. There are no "retakes" on tests or exams, please be prepared to take it at the appointed time. If the student is planning to miss a test day, it is the student's responsibility to discuss with the teacher a plan for testing. If the student is absent due to sickness on a test day, the student will take the test upon return to school. Communication with the teacher is key.

Grading System

The grading system for the Science Department at St. Pius X is as follows:

40% (including a cumulative final that is worth 15% of total grade)	Tests and Papers
30%	Quizzes, Exit Tickets, Vocabulary
10-20%	Labs/Projects
10-20%	Homework

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as appropriate throughout the year.