

Pre Advanced Placement Biology at James Bowie High School

It is very important that you and your student select courses for next year with careful consideration. ~~June 10th~~ **May 1** will be the absolute deadline for any student or parent to request changes. This must be done through written communication with the data processing office at Bowie. **After ~~June 10th~~ **May 1** requests for level changes (Pre-AP to academic) will not be considered until a student has been in a class for two weeks. Such requests will go to committee for review and decision.**

It is important that students learn to face challenges and that they understand the meaning of commitment. Furthermore, students' course selections determine the master schedule, hiring and reassignment of teachers, and the purchase of classroom materials, so we will strictly adhere to these deadlines.

Pre-AP Biology is aligned with the College Board's recommendations and prepares students to be successful in college level courses. The pace of this course is faster than that of the Academic course. Assessments are rigorous and students are expected to come to class prepared. Some indicators of success are the student's skill level and interest in science and the ability to work independently on research projects. Reading, writing, and research are an integral part of a Pre-AP science course. Students must be able to read, write, and calculate at or above grade level. Students who do not pass eighth grade TAKS test in English, Mathematics, or Science are not prepared for Pre-AP level work.

Students should expect approximately 30 to 60 minutes of homework every night (estimates are based on grade level skills in reading and writing). Additional time may be required for completion of science projects and outside readings. Daily attendance and daily review of class notes are crucial for a good understanding of the curriculum. Missing class for whatever reason will require immediate expenditure of time outside of class for makeup work/ lab assignments. In the fall semester it is expected that Pre-AP students complete an individual research project. The projects are groomed to be competitive in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (societyforscience.org) and in accordance with those International Rules and Guidelines. In the spring, students will read a scientific novel and write an essay that will count as 20% of the spring final exam grade.

Biology summer pre-work is required and due the first day of school. Information in detail can be found at Bowiepreapbiology.pbworks.com. This work will include:

1. Explore the website to get details for completing all required pre-work.
2. Deliverables (due first day of school) include completing internet tutorials on library research, exploring and selecting research topics, and completing a preliminary Experimental Design (which includes bibliography of three major scientific sources).

These assignments will be explained fully on the website and useful links will be supplied for completion of this work on the website.

With their signatures on the James Bowie High School Course Contract, parents and students acknowledge their understanding of the commitment required to succeed in this course.