

AP Biology Summer Assignments

We're going to spend a lot of time together, over 5 ½ hours a week, in an intense, challenging course. While all of you have had biology and chemistry, you have had different courses and teachers and come with different experiences. The purpose of the summer work is to get to know each other a little better, to review some of the fundamentals of science you should know before our first class together in September, and to get you to explore nature at a local level.

Only one assignment is mandatory (the letter of introduction), but participation in the online summer discussion board is *strongly* recommended, especially if you struggled in chemistry. You will be rewarded for participation as noted below.

The Summer Scavenger Hunt is optional, though bonus points will be awarded to the first monthly exam.

Assignment One:

Letter of Introduction [mandatory—due date June 17th]:

Write a formal letter of introduction, and send it via email to me at mdoyle@bloomfield.k12.nj.us putting "AP Bio letter of introduction" as the subject line.

You may share as much or as little about yourself as you care to, but must include in your letter the reason(s) why you chose to take this course, what you hope to get out of it, and how you fared in your previous high school science classes.

Things you might add (but are not required to) are hobbies, favorite organisms, extracurricular activities (music, sports, drama, etc.), your favorite book(s) or music, where you see yourself in a few years—or anything else you might want a teacher to know.

Please write in complete sentences, and use care in your grammar and your spelling.

This assignment will count 20 points in the Test/Quizzes/Projects category.

Assignment Two:

Summer Discussion Board [optional, but highly recommended]

Several topics will be introduced over the summer through our class discussion board. The purpose of the discussion board is to introduce the big ideas found in AP Biology, and to review some fundamental concepts in chemistry.

While participation is optional, students who opt out will still be responsible for any review material discussed, which will be available online even to those not contributing.

Directions for signing up will be distributed via email.

Successful completion of this work will count 50 points towards the class work category.

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Assignment Three:

Summer Scavenger Hunt [optional—due date Friday, September 4th]:

Please do a minimum of 20 of the following. At least 10 should be ones with photographic evidence including some token (or tchoshke) of your choice—school ID, troll doll, whatever—that makes it clear the photo is yours.

The activities marked with an asterisk require photographic evidence (including your tchoshke) which may be shared on our website. The others are done on an honor system.

Successful completion of this optional project will get you 5 bonus points on the first exam.

Dip your toes (or fingers) in Clarks Pond.*

Find a fish in a Bloomfield stream.

Have a sundae at Holsten's.*

Spend an afternoon in Manhattan.*

Find a mushroom in the wild.*

Watch an anthill for at least 15 minutes straight.

Find a bat at dusk.

Check out a book at the BPL.*

Plant a bean. Eat a bean from the bean plant you grew. * [photo of bean on plant]

Identify a tree in Bloomfield by its scientific name. *[and correct name]

Find the giant Bloomfield sundial. (HINT: it's visible from the library.)*

Disconnect from all electronic devices for 24 hours straight.

Sleep outside—it's OK if you're in a tent.*

Dip your toes (or fingers) in the pond in Halcyon Park.*

Look at the moon.*

Look at a planet.*

Go to a U-Pick-It farm, pick some fruit, and eat it.*

Ride a bicycle.* [Wear a helmet!]

Dip your toes (or fingers) in tidal water.*

Pick up some litter in Bloomfield.*

Go to a star party. [Tell me where and when you went]

Find 10 interesting rocks.*

Ride a skate board.*[Wear a helmet!]

Visit the Bloomfield Farmer's Market.*

Go fishing/hunting/clamming.*

Make peanut butter from scratch.*

Make homemade ice cream.*

Make whipped cream from scratch.*

Make butter from scratch.*

Write a song. Share it on a video. *

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Open your eyes underwater.

Make a mudpie.*

Catch a wild snake, turtle, or frog.*

Go to the Turtleback Zoo.*

Ride the train at the Turtle Back Zoo,*

Make a sandcastle.*

Bury yourself safely in the sand.*

Hold a horseshoe crab properly.*

Hold a fiddler crab properly.*

Walk two miles straight around Bloomfield. [Describe and map out the route]

Find and research the name of one of our soldiers found on a local street sign.*

Visit the 9/11 memorial on The Green.*

Find the Korean memorial in Bloomfield.*

Find a marker for the Morris Canal.*

Find a tree stump, count its rings.* [Tell me where it is]

Eat a mulberry right off the tree.*

Watch the Bloomfield Civic Band or Mandolin Orchestra.*

Go to a Board of Education meeting.*

Go to a Bloomfield Town Council meeting.*

Stand in the Bloomfield train station.*

Introduce yourself to your local councilperson.*

Introduce yourself to the mayor of Bloomfield.*

Introduce yourself to the President of the Bloomfield Board of Education.*

Introduce yourself to the President of Bloomfield College.*

Find an active bald-faced hornets' nest (but don't get too close).*

Go paddling (kayak, canoe, or paddleboard).*

Go rowing (rowboat).*

Make a birdhouse.*

Play in the rain (but *not* in a thunderstorm).*

Fly a kite.*

Visit the Montclair Art Museum.*

Go skating (ice or roller).*