

# 2025 – 2026 AP BIOLOGY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

**This is for AP BIOLOGY only; incoming freshmen taking *HONORS biology*, do NOT do this work!**

As you know, AP Biology is a college-level biology class. The curriculum builds upon a foundation of basic biology and chemistry in order to allow students to study complex topics in greater detail. In order to inspire an interest in biology and provide an introduction to the course, you will be asked to complete a summer assignment consisting of four parts (don't worry, it's mostly easy stuff). Each component, and its due date, is given below. It is critical that you budget your time wisely and complete the required work during the summer so that we start out the semester on the right foot!

## PART 1: Join Remind

DUE DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 2

The first part of your summer assignment is simple. Sign in to Remind and join your AP Biology class! Simply text the code **@ransomapb** to the number **81010** to join. Don't worry about receiving excessive messages; I only send out reminders about once or twice a week during the school year.

Remind will be my primary method of communicating with you over the summer (if needed) and will give you an easy way to contact me.

## PART 2: Introductory email

DUE DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 23

Please send me an introductory e-mail so that I may get to know you and your background. In the e-mail:

- Use clearly written, **full sentences**. Do not abbreviate words like you are texting a friend. Use **spell check**! This is a professional communication like you would have with a college professor, so let's practice for your rapidly nearing future!
- Send it to: [briana.ransom@cobbk12.org](mailto:briana.ransom@cobbk12.org)
- Make the subject: **AP Bio: Introduction to <Insert Your Name Here>**
- Begin the e-mail with a **formal salutation**, like "Ms. Ransom," or "Dear Ms. Ransom,"
- Introduce yourself (the name you prefer to be called) and tell me a little bit about yourself, like:
  - Are you in the STEM Academy? If so, which one (AMS or Traditional)?
  - What do you do in your spare time (hobbies, sports, music, interests, job, etc.)?
  - Tell me a little bit about your family (Mom? Dad? Guardian? Siblings? Pets?)
  - What do your parents do for a living?
  - What do you want to do after high school? Career goal?
  - What science classes have you already taken? What science classes (other than AP Biology) are you taking this year?
  - What are you looking forward to the most in AP Biology? Most anxious about?
- End the e-mail with a **formal closing**: "Cordially", "Sincerely", "Warm regards", etc. and add your name as if you signed a letter.

## PART 3: Join Mastering Biology

DUE DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 23

Mastering Biology (MB) is the program you will use to access your textbook, therefore you should enroll in it before the first day of school. Your first reading assignment will be due during that first week!

**You will be able to enroll in MB beginning May 26, 2025; if you try earlier you will get an error message.**

In order to join the class on Mastering Biology:

- Go to [www.pearson.com/mastering](http://www.pearson.com/mastering)
- Under **Register**, select **Student**, then select **OK! Register now**.
- Enter the Course ID: **ransom01136**
- If you have an existing Pearson account, enter your **username** and **password** and select **Sign in**. If you don't have an account, select **Create** and complete the required fields.

5. Select the “Access Code” option and enter the access code listed below:
  - SSPREN-SPADA-SERRY-GIGUE-JABOT-WAXES

*This access code will expire some time in late June, if you miss the registration deadline you will need to request a new code from Ms. Ransom via Remind or email.*
6. From the “You’re Done!” page, select **Go to My Courses**.
7. On the My Courses page, select the course name **AP Biology 25-26** to see the assignments for the course.
8. Go ahead and bookmark the login page; you will access this site frequently throughout the course.

Since the AP Biology curriculum is written with the assumption that a student in AP Biology has successfully completed an introductory course in biology and basic chemistry, I have set up an online tutorial that covers these fundamental concepts. It serves as a crash course for Academy students and a refresher course for upperclassmen, and is **OPTIONAL**. **While these assignments WILL NOT count in your course grade, you DO need to sign up for Mastering Biology for use throughout the school year.**

PART 4: Survival of the Sickest      DUE DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 4 (first day of school)

You will need to purchase your own copy of *Survival of the Sickest* by Dr. Sharon Moalem (ISBN-13: 978-0060889661) and read it over the summer. This is actually an enjoyable book (really!). Bring the book with you to class the first day of school.

As you read the book, you should make note of a couple of things per chapter:

- 1) A brief summary of the main idea of the chapter, focusing specifically on the evolutionary advantage/disadvantage of the topic discussed in the chapter. We will start the year with a Socratic seminar in which we discuss the book, so write what you feel will help you participate in such a discussion. *This can be just a few sentences – do not feel the need to write a lot!*
- 2) Pick **one** specific quote in the chapter that strikes you as interesting, thought-provoking, controversial, or just something that you would like to discuss in our seminar.

Feel free to type your reading notes, or you may hand-write them if you prefer. You will need to bring in your reading notes on the first day of school. **This WILL count as your first grade for the course.**

**Use the checklist below to keep track of what you should complete over the summer.**

CHECKLIST ITEM	DUE DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Join Remind	Monday, 6/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Join Mastering Biology (registration opens on 5/26/25)	Monday, 6/23
<b><i>The following two assignments in MB are optional and do not factor into your grade:</i></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Biology Review Assignment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chemistry Review Assignment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Send introductory email to Ms. Ransom	Monday, 6/23
<input type="checkbox"/> Purchase <i>Survival of the Sickest</i> (SOTS)	ASAP
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Reading Notes for SOTS	Monday, 8/4

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE YOUR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT! AP Biology will require a great deal of discipline and motivation, but will be an extremely rewarding experience, and I look forward to seeing you in the fall! Please feel free to send any questions you have on Remind. You may also contact me directly via e-mail at: [briana.ransom@cobbk12.org](mailto:briana.ransom@cobbk12.org) ☺**