



# AP Biology

Overview, Expectations and Best Practices

Mira Costa High School

# Taking an AP Class

- ▶ Taking an AP class gives college-level rigor. That's great...
- ▶ It is good to present yourself with **APPROPRIATE** challenges.
- ▶ It is **equally important** to be well-rounded—socially and emotionally.
  - ▶ Colleges think so to!

# What AP class should I take?

- ▶ Take an AP class in a subject that interests you—in something you may want to pursue.
- ▶ Be sensible in balancing rigorous coursework with co-curricular activities and other demands on your time.

## How can I plan for an ideal balance of academics, activities, and LIFE?

- ▶ Before you make your course selections for enrollment, complete a **Time Management Activity Grid**.
  - ▶ Find this at [miracostahigh.org](http://miracostahigh.org) > Guidance > Student Resources

# AP Biology

## Course Overview

- ▶ AP Biology is a second year biology course that is designed to be the equivalent of the general biology course usually taken during the first year of college.
- ▶ The course is focused on preparing students to take the AP Biology Exam in May
- ▶ Emphasis is placed on college-level laboratory experience, student collaboration, problem-solving techniques and test taking strategies

# AP Biology Course Overview

- ▶ Unit 0: Lab Fundamentals, Animal Behavior
- ▶ Unit 1: Chemistry, Water, and Macromolecules
- ▶ Unit 2: Cellular Processes
- ▶ Unit 3: Enzyme, Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration
- ▶ Unit 4: Mitosis, Meiosis
- ▶ Unit 5: Genetics, Biotechnology
- ▶ Unit 6: Protein Synthesis, Gene Expression
- ▶ Unit 7: Evolution
- ▶ Unit 8: Ecology
- ▶ Unit 9: Nervous System
- ▶ Unit 11: Immune System
- ▶ Unit 12: Body Systems - Circulatory, Respiratory, Digestive, Exocrine, Endocrine, Reproductive

# AP Biology Course Laboratories

1. Animal Behavior Lab
2. Molecule Building Lab
3. Diffusion/Osmosis Lab
4. Enzyme Catalase Lab
5. Cellular Respiration Lab
6. Photosynthesis Lab
7. Bacterial Transformation Lab
8. Gel Electrophoresis Lab
9. *Drosophila* Genetics Lab
10. BLAST Lab
11. Transpiration Lab
12. Energy Dynamics Lab
13. *Daphnia* Lab
14. Fetal Pig Dissection

# AP Biology

## Pre-Requisites

- ▶ **Honors Chemistry** with a grade of C- or better (or CP Chemistry with a grade of B- or better)
- ▶ **Biology** with a grade of B- or better
- ▶ **Algebra 2** with a grade of B- or better



# AP Biology

## Let's Be Real: Workload

- ▶ Students should expect reading/homework each night for an average of 4 hours/week
- ▶ This is a LABORATORY-BASED course. There are 13 college-level labs (1-3 class periods each) that students will complete throughout the school year
- ▶ Students will be responsible for learning much of the material independently using the textbook and online resources. A significant portion of class time is spent discussing how the material applies to the lab experience.

# AP Biology

## Grade Composition and Weighting

- ▶ Tests and Quizzes = 40%
  - ▶ Classwork and Homework = 20%
  - ▶ Laboratory Reports = 20%
  - ▶ Final = 20%
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- ▶ Quizzes missed due to excused absences must be taken in advance. Tests missed will be made up with a quarter exam.
  - ▶ Late homework will not be accepted
  - ▶ Laboratory Reports turned in after the due date are credited with 50% of the earned score

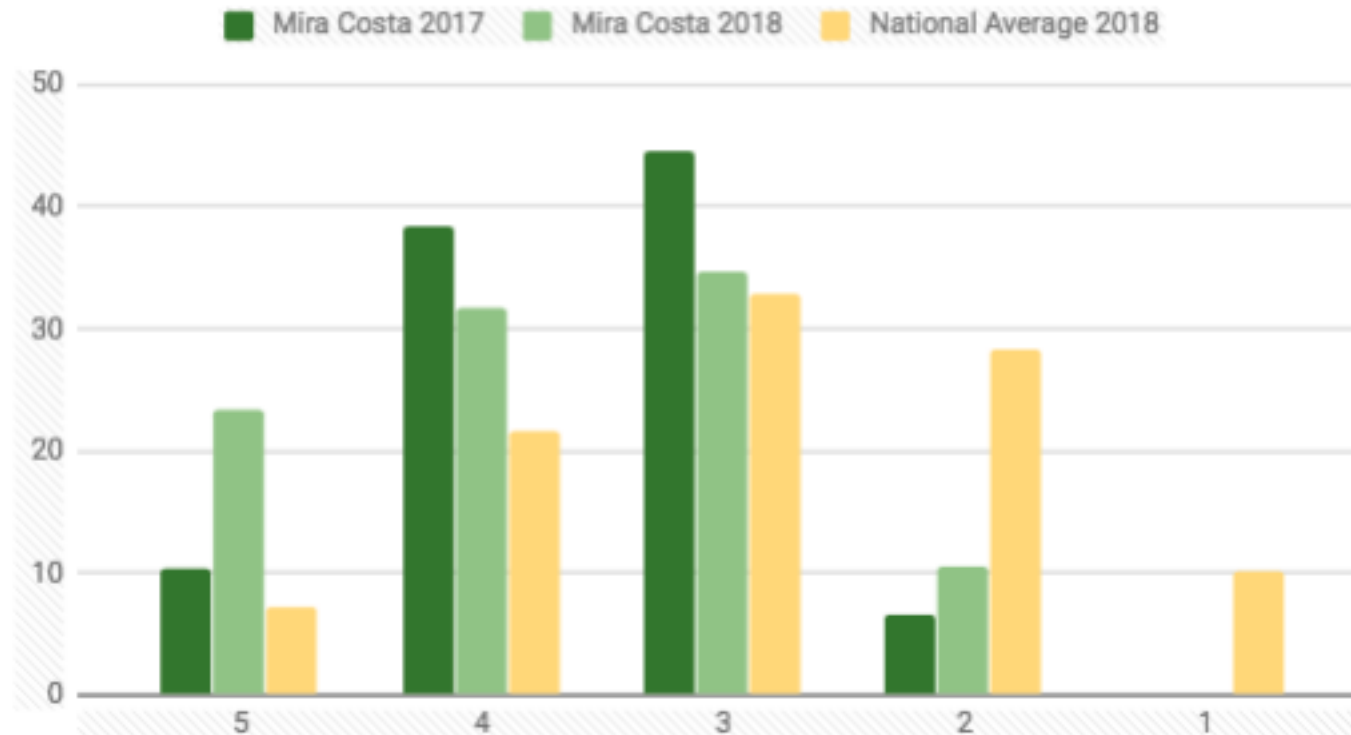
# AP Biology

## Best Practices for Success

- ▶ Don't miss class.
- ▶ Stay current with assigned homework and reading assignments.
- ▶ Ask for help when you need it.
- ▶ Form a study group with other students.
- ▶ Purchase an AP Biology test prep book for extra practice problems.
- ▶ Maintain a positive attitude.

# AP Biology Exam Scores

AP Biology Score Distribution



**Mira Costa Pass Rate 2018 = 90%**

**National Pass Rate 2018 = 62%**

# AP Biology Additional Information

## ▶ Instructor Contact Info

Mrs. Hearn - [yhearn@mbusd.org](mailto:yhearn@mbusd.org)

Mr. Locke - [jlocke@mbusd.org](mailto:jlocke@mbusd.org)

[College Board AP Biology Home Page](#)