MVLA 2019-20 COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Course Title: AP Biology School: MVHS UC/CSU requirement: Laboratory Science "D" Requirement

Textbook and/or other learning resources: Campbell Biology in Focus, 2e, Urry, Cain, Wasserman, Minorsky, and Reece. Mastering Biology is a web based accompaniment to the textbook.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The <u>AP Biology</u> course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. The content based components of the *AP Biology Curriculum Framework* (i.e., big ideas, enduring understandings, and learning objectives), are integrated with <u>science</u> <u>practices</u> to achieve conceptual understanding and facilitate scientific inquiry and reasoning.

The abilities described in the science practices are as follows:

•Use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems

•Use mathematics appropriately*

•Engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the AP course

•Plan and implement data collection strategies in relation to a particular scientific question

•Perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence*

•Work with scientific explanations and theories

•Connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts, and representations in and across domains.

* Note: A significant shift in the College Board's curriculum for AP Biology is a major emphasis on mathematics and statistical analysis. Quantifying and analyzing data, building predictive models, and mastery of equations that allow for a deeper understanding of biological systems are emphasized throughout the year.

The four big ideas studied in this course are:

- 1. The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
- 2. Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- 3. Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes.
- 4. Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

To learn more about which biological concepts/topics are under the umbrella of the four big ideas, please read through the AP Biology Curriculum Framework course outline found in <u>this document</u>, beginning on page 14.

The course aims to motivate students to succeed in higher education and the world of scientific work.

Assessment and Grading (<u>BP 5121</u> / <u>AR 5121</u>): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

50%: Tests 40%: Classwork 10%: Final Exam <u>Final Semester grade</u>: 90%: Running Semester Total 10%: Final Exam

Grade Book Update Policy: grades will be posted every 2 weeks on the Student Information System (SIS)

http://sis.mvla.net/

2. Weights of assignments/assessments used to determine proficiency within a grading category:

The "Tests" category includes unit exams and guizzes. The "Classwork" category includes lab reports, projects, homework, and other in class activities.

Proficiency is determined by how well a student achieves the expectations for an assignment. Both summative and formative assessments will be utilized.

3. Grading scales:

A = 100%-89.5% B = 89.49%-79.5% C = 79.49%-69.5% D = 69.49%-59.5 F = 59.49% and below

4. Homework/outside of class practices (AR 6154):

Nightly homework could include reading, taking notes, worksheets, utilizing the Mastering Biology online resource, lab reports, researching topics online, watching videos online, and/or reviewing for tests.

5. Excused absence make up practices (Education Code 48205(b):

The amount of time students will be provided to make up assignments missed due to excused absence(s) will be equal to the amount of days missed. AP Biology is a fast paced course, it is difficult to experience a high level of success if you are unable to manage your time effectively. Assignments and announcements are all posted in the class Google calendar and Google Classroom. Please make sure to check these resources during your absence if possible and email the instructor with questions. Most of our assignments are completed electronically.

6. Academic integrity violation practices (MVHS Academic Integrity Policy):

Students will be held to a high standard of academic integrity and school academic integrity policies will be adhered to. Any assignments for which you are determined to be in violation will result in a permanent zero for that assignment.

Please note that much of the work we do in AP Biology involves collaboration. While students often work collaboratively on laboratory and other assignments, each student is required to submit a report written in his/her own words for credit.

7. Late work practices:

Late work, missing work and opportunities for revision: do your best to complete all work on time. Late assignments will be accepted, but you will never earn more than 80% on late assignments.

8. Revision practices:

Revisions are not an option in AP Biology. Students are encouraged to take advantage of office hours prior to the assignment due date to review responses to any writing prompts.

9. Extra credit practices:

Students should not expect any extra credit opportunities in AP Biology.

10. Additional grading practices:

In AP Biology, a system of test corrections has been established called "Correct to Learn." Known as C2Ls, students are provided the opportunity to retake test items answered incorrectly for the multiple choice and

grid-in portions of any given exam (not quizzes). These are offered at the teacher's discretion. Students are provided the test booklet, a textbook, and a template to complete their corrections. Students earn 40% of the points back for items answered correctly. C2Ls must be completed outside of instructional time. It is strongly recommended that the C2Ls for one test are completed prior to the administration of the next exam.

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