

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN AP BIOLOGY...

1. Quiet structured study time

Help your child to establish a study routine by setting up a quiet study area and a consistent quiet study time nightly. The routine will help them practice good study habits for college.

Should the study area be their bedroom or a family area, like the dining room?

That depends on your household and your child. If your child is self-motivated and can work steadily without supervision, then a quiet desk space in their bedroom would work well. However, if their bedroom is equipped with distractions like a stereo or TV, then this might not be conducive to concentrating on homework and the family area may work better.

2. Work on Biology EVERY night

For your child to stay up-to-date in this course they need to spend some time on biology every night. The ideal would be about one (1) hour per night or approximately six (6) hours per week. This would include textbook reading, lecture review, lab notebook assignments, extra credit assignments, and test preparation. On weeks when they cannot devote that one hour on a weeknight, they should put in extra time on weekends to make up for it. On nights where they have minimal time, your child should at least review the day's lecture notes (PowerPoint/class notes in their notebook and on the Web)

3. Support Study Groups

Encourage your child to arrange a study group with other students in the class. Each student will have different strengths and weaknesses in this course. In one unit, your child will be the teacher to other students and in a different unit they will be the student. Putting two or more heads together is always a benefit. You never learn something as well as when you have to explain it to someone else.

However let me emphasize that, while study groups and cooperative effort are strongly encouraged; on final written work, all students are required to craft their **own** answers and must have a completely **uniquely** worded answer for each question.

4. Use a Lifeline

Encourage your child to ask for help. I can stay after any day for extra help and I arrive at school early usually around 6:45, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday, or by appointment. Also, all my AP students have my e-mail address and they can readily e-mail me for help at any time after school hours and I will make every effort to reply to them immediately. If there is an emergency (it's the night before a big exam and they are totally confused about something!), I give my students my home number. Do not allow them to feel like they are intruding, I am here to help them understand and learn to love the subject of Biology as much as I do.

5. Don't Panic! Stick with it!

Some parts of this course will come more easily than others. Encourage your child to work steadily and not to be discouraged. Success will build as they improve their critical thinking skills and their writing ability through practice. This is a college course and they are working on more than learning biology; they are working on skills that they will use to succeed academically for years to come.

Your child needs to work hard and work steadily and they will be rewarded in this course!