Hall's Mission Statement:

William H. Hall High School prepares all students to be educated, responsible citizens who contribute collaboratively, independently, and innovatively to a dynamic global community.

AP Biology:

Welcome to AP biology. As you may be aware, this will be a challenging year for you, and hopefully a fun one too. In order to succeed in this course you need to keep on top of your work at all times. If you fall behind or are having troubles please contact me immediately. It is my job to help you understand biology, so don't be shy.

We will be working toward three main goals this year: increasing your critical thinking and research abilities, your understanding of biology, and preparing you for the AP Biology Exam. Along the way we will reach some of the student expectations as outlined in your student handbook.

Materials Needed

- One Three Ring Notebook 2 inches thick with Three dividers marked: Class Notes, Handouts, and Homework or a Notebook and filing system for hand-outs
- Additional three ring notebook for labs (You must keep this as some colleges will want to see your lab work prior to awarding credit.)
- One Ruler
- One Calculator
- Campbell's Biology Textbook – Provided (please read about care below) I will try to leave a copy in the library for in school use.
- Pens and Pencils
- I recommend a file folder to put notes into when your binder becomes too full.
- I also recommend a four-colored pen for taking notes.
- I recommend a study guide such as "Five Steps to a Five". Look over a few prior purchasing one.

Class Website: I have a blog off the Hall Website:

Grading Policy

- Exams/Quests = 35% of your grade (In the fourth quarter you will be given projects in lieu of two Exams.)
- Quizzes= 25% of your grade
- Labs = 30% of your grade
- Homework = 10%
- Semester Grade is 20% Semester Exam, and 40% for each quarter.

Extra Credit: Due to the fact this is a college level course your grade is based solely on your knowledge of biology. However Biology is an ever changing science that textbooks cannot typically keep up with. Therefore your extra credit is to be a reading of your choice from an approved journal. Once per quarter you may read, and evaluate an approved article from Scientific America, Nature or Discover to add up to 3% to your
quarter grade (most students earn 2%). Each page should be double-spaced with New Times 12 font. It should be at least 4-5 pages and include a summary, how it relates to what we are studying, and your opinion. Please do not submit articles from other magazines without teacher approval, as they will not be accepted. If you would like to do an alternate assignment, please see me with your idea.

**Grading Scale:** Due to the challenging nature of the course your report card letter grades will be assigned using the following criteria: A+=95% and above, A= 94 to 90, A-= 89 to 86, B+= 85 to 83, B = 82 to 79, B-= 78 to 76, C+ = 75 to 71, C = 70 to 65, C-= 64 to 60, D+ = 59 to 57, D = 56 to 53, D-= 52 to 50. **I do not round up grades to full numbers from decimal places. I.E. 85.5 is a B+ not an A-. Transfers occur at the end of semester 1. Please keep in mind grades do follow you from AP biology into Honors Biology or Biology 1,2.**

You may receive a grade lower than that which you typically receive. This is because you are taking a college level course, and beginning to stretch your intellect as well as developing new study skills. Remember this is a growing process, not simply collecting a grade. **If you react emotionally to a grade, you will be required from then on to pick up your grades after school.**

**Homework**

You are assigned readings most nights, approximately 2 to 3 sections in a chapter. Prior to do the reading you will be asked to watch a Bozeman Biology Podcast and complete a video guide. This will help preview the material for you. If you need additional preview, I recommend reading through the section in a review book also. I will take questions on the videos the next day in class.

You are to take Cornell notes on these readings in your learning log, which you may use on weekly POP quizzes. ☺ The readings are written on the calendar the day it is assigned. Please do not procrastinate on the readings. If we have extended days off due to an emergency closing, you are expected to keep up with the assigned readings. Additionally, I often post inclement weather work on the blog.

*AP biology is a rigorous college level course. This is probably the first time you have taken a course of this intensity. You need to set aside study time for AP biology each day, approximately an hour a day including weekends. You should do the readings and then review the work from the day's class. Often you will need more time in the beginning while you adjust to the difficulty level.

**Labs**

Labs will vary between formal and informal. All AP recommended Labs are formal lab reports that should be in your lab notebook. **Formal written labs must be typed. However, your lab must be written individually. “Sharing” of labs is cheating and thus will be dealt with according to the school rules.** The format for the formal typed lab reports and mini-posters will be given out with the lab in a detailed rubric. Some labs will be completely graded, where as others will have a section graded or given a grade for completion only. It depends on the complexity of the lab.

In order to do a complex lab, you must complete the pre-lab first or only earn 50%, NO EXCEPTIONS. No lab will be accepted after they have been handed back. Also there will be late penalty as shown below. Whole labs and/or sections of labs will be graded. As we will be doing some new labs this year, some will not go as smoothly as others.
especially when dealing with living material. This is okay as it is the nature of science to revise and repeat.

Informal labs are geared toward increasing your understanding and enjoyment of the subject matter, not free time. They will be spot collected at the end of certain labs. Informal labs are also listed on the calendar.

If I suspect you have behaved dangerously or inappropriately during a lab you will receive no credit for that lab. You will also have a behavioral referral, which can result in removal from the class. Such behavior includes eating, drinking, horseplay, or daring each other to inappropriate behavior.

**Penalties for Late Work**

Due to the increase in late work from AP students, I have changed my policy. All late work will receive 50% credit up until the day of the test. After the day of the test you will receive 0% credit. If there is a family emergency or you were to sick to complete work, a parent or guardian note must accompany the late work. Extracurricular activities are not a valid excuse. You may talk to me in class if something is due the next day, but if you are given a week, I expect it done. It is essential that you learn to manage your time in this course. It will serve you well in all your future courses and college.

**Make-up Work**

Quizzes need to be made up the next day in class unless there is an extended illness etc. Tests and Labs need to be made up on Fridays after school. It is your responsibility to schedule make-up work, and see me about what was missed. If you will be away on vacation, you need to see me ahead of time. If you have an extended excused absence on the day of a test, try to take it beforehand. Students tend to do poorer when they put tests off. You receive your calendar well in advance so “excuses” are not accepted. You are expected to do your work ahead of time if it conflicts with other commitments such as sports, music, trips etc. If you have religious obligations, please see me to reschedule any quizzes or tests.

**Content of Quizzes and Tests**

- Scheduled quizzes are designed with short answer questions and problems to be solved. I have tried to schedule at least one per section.
- Tests/Quests will be designed with multiple-choice questions, short answer, gridins and/or essays. The format of tests

**Additional Materials/Aids**

I have prepared PowerPoints for most chapters. These are created using my original powerpoints, your text books and Mrs. Foglia’s. I also picked up copies of the workbook Biozone AP Biology as well as some AP Biology review books. You may look through these, but not write on them. You can also purchase these independently. If you need exercises to review a particular area please see me and I will try to find something helpful.

**Citizenship**

You will receive a citizenship grade reflective of your behavior in class. The classroom is your work place environment; it should be a pleasant one; however it is up to all of us to make it one. This means no teasing, swearing, violence or vandalism. Any inappropriate behavior will be dealt with immediately according to the school handbook. This includes any cheating that may occur. (Copying homework is cheating!!!) Intellectual integrity is expected from you in all aspects of your work.
Books
You will receive a book at the beginning of the year. Please carefully look over the book to verify there is no damage. Remember this book is on loan to you. If you damage the book, you will be charged approximately 89 dollars to replace it. If you break the binding, you will be charged a rebinding fee of about 8 dollars. To avoid these costs make sure to cover your book and handle it with care.

My Hours
I am available after school to go over material until at least 3:00 pm, except Wednesday. I may occasionally need to attend other meetings, especially the second Tuesday of the month, so please check ahead of time. I do not meet with students before school except by appointment, as many labs need reagents made up fresh. In order to keep the afternoons open for students, I do prep work for my classes during prep period and my lunch period. Please be aware I can not meet with you during these times as these are not “free periods”. You can e-mail me at home before 8:00 pm at my school email. You may also call me at school at 232-4561(x1241). I ask that you do not call my home.

Hall’s Mission Statement:
Biology Course Expectations

William H. Hall High School prepares all students to be educated, responsible citizens who contribute collaboratively, independently, and innovatively to a dynamic global community.

Welcome to Honor's biology. Biology is a subject that will impact the rest of your life. This course is designed to not just inform you but also to engage your interest in the subject matter. It is my hope that you will not only appreciate biology, but also become critical thinkers that try to understand their world. In order to succeed in this course you need to keep on top of your work at all times. If you fall behind or are having troubles please contact me immediately. It is my job to help you understand biology, so don't be shy. ☺ Remember to always do your best and work hard.

Materials Needed

- **Textbook** - (Provided)
- 2 inch Notebook with four dividers labeled, notes, homework, handouts, and labs or a Notebook with filing system for handouts.
- One Calculator
- Pens and Pencils
- Recommended a file folder for your work midyear or a new notebook

Grading Policy

The grade system is based on Total Points. For each assignment you will receive a certain point value. Your grade will be determined by dividing your points earned by the total points possible. Labs, homework, quizzes, exams, and projects can all earn points. I have given approximate percent of your grade each will make up.

- **Test/Quizzes** ~ 45-50%
- **Labs** ~ 20-30%
- **Homework** ~ 15-20%

There will be also a class participation component worth 5 to 10% of your grade or total points. You will lose points off your participation grade for the following:

1. Putting yourself or others in harms way
2. Swearing
3. Yelling at another individual.
4. Taunting another student
5. Damaging school property
6. Behaving disrespectfully and interfering with others' learning

If you react emotionally to a grade, you will be required from then on to pick up your grades up after school. Grades are not rounded up. The letter grades correlate with the ones explained in your student handbook. I will update Powerschool regularly please check it for missing assignments weekly.

Class Information
Your weekly assignments will be posted on the class blog. In an effort to conserve paper I am asking you to look on the blog rather than copying it to paper.

Labs and Homework
Labs will vary between formal and informal. The format for these lab reports will be given out with the lab. In order to do a formal lab, you must complete the pre-lab first. If you do not, you will not be allowed to do the lab and must make it up during the make up day. The assignments are posted on your class blog. It is not unusual for more than one assignment to be due on a particular day. This is to force you to work on time management and not to procrastinate to the last minute.

Any horsing around, inappropriate behavior, eating, drinking or daring others to eat or drink during a lab will result in a zero for you and your group. You will also receive a behavioral referral, which can result in removal from the class. This is based upon what I perceived to have happened.

Late Work Penalties
There will be late penalty of 50% deduction unless accompanied by a parental note with an acceptable reason. Acceptable reasons for not turning in work are sickness, family emergency or religious obligations. Extra curricular activities are not legitimate excuses as you know all assignments prior to the due date. These penalties are in effect for any work passed in after the first five minutes of class. This is to prevent copying or completing work during class time. It is your responsibility to hand in work and keep track of due dates.

Homework Notes
You are assigned readings. You are encouraged to take notes on these readings in the Cornell Format. (To see an explanation: http://coe.jmu.edu/learningtoolbox/cornellnotes.html) Remember these are notes not copying down the whole book. ☺ The days the readings are due are written on the syllabus I give you. You will receive MOM (open note) and Pop (close note) on these readings. Please do not procrastinate on the readings. Homework will be checked daily. You may also have worksheets, projects, and labs for homework.

Make-up Work
Quizzes need to be made up the next day in class unless there is an extended illness etc. Tests and Labs need to be made up after school on Fridays. I am sorry but I cannot accommodate individual schedules. The test may not be in the same format as the original test. It is your responsibility to schedule this time with me. If you will be away on vacation, you need to see me ahead of time. If you have an expected excused absence on the day of a test, try to take it before. Students tend to do poorer when they put tests off. If a test or quiz overlaps with a religious obligation please see me to reschedule.

Extra Credit
Your extra credit is to be a reading of your choice from an approved journal. Once per quarter you may read, and evaluate an approved article from Scientific America, Nature or Discover to add up to 4% to your quarter grade (most students earn 3%). Each page should be double-spaced with New Times 12 font. It should be at least 4-5 pages and include a summary, how it relates to what we are studying, and your opinion. Please do not submit
articles from other magazines without teacher approval, as they will not be accepted. If you would like to do an alternate assignment, please see me with your idea.

Books

You will receive a book at the beginning of the year. Please carefully look over the book to verify there is no damage. Remember this book is on loan to you. If you damage the book, you will be charged to replace it. If you break the binding, you will be charged a rebinding fee. To avoid these costs make sure to cover your book and handle it with care. You will not be required to bring your book to school.

My Hours

I am available after school to go over material until at least 3:00 pm, except Wednesday. I may occasionally need to attend other meetings, especially Tuesday, so please check ahead of time. I do not meet with students before school except by appointment, as many labs need reagents made up fresh. In order to keep the afternoons open for students, I do prep work for my classes during prep period and my lunch period. Please be aware I can not meet with you during these times as these are not “free periods”. You can e-mail me at home before 8:00 pm at my school email. You may also call me at school at 232-4561(x1241). I ask that you do not call my home.