

Student Name (Print) _____ Course: Advance Biology II

(ADVANCED BIOLOGY II)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The staff at Tuscola High is pleased that your child is considering taking one or more *advanced* classes next year. For the AP (Advanced Placement) courses, the college-level work is strenuous, but the rewards for making the commitment & seeing it through are great. You may already know that a passing grade on a College Board AP test in high school allows a student to enter college with credit earned ahead of time. Each year Tuscola has a significant number of students who enter college with various amounts of credit earned through AP courses. To compensate for the increased difficulty of the AP & Advanced courses, AP classes are weighted with two extra points awarded in computing a student's Grade Point Average, while *Advanced* courses are awarded one extra point.

Please understand Tuscola's policies concerning all *advanced* courses. Once students have made their final class selections, *changes will not be made except in cases of administrative decisions*. Thus, both students & parents should be very certain of the commitment they are making. Additionally, students taking AP classes are offered the National Advanced Placement Test for each AP course at a cost of \$89 per test, which a student must take & pass in order to receive college credit. The fee for **each** test will be collected in December. Please understand that class availability will be based on student interested and qualification. Therefore a class may or may not be available and the number of sections will also be determined by this.

Should you have any questions concerning the AP courses or tests, please feel free to contact the Tuscola Counseling Center at 456 – 2408.

I have reviewed the contents of this letter as well as criteria & modifications listed for each AP course to which my child is applying. I understand the AP courses require college level work which is much more rigorous than normal high school courses. I also understand that participation in any AP class requires that my child pass the National Advanced Placement Test in order to receive college credit.

Student (Print Name) _____

Student Signature (Sign Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Print Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Sign Name) _____

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**HAYWOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS
HAYWOOD DIFFERENTIATED EDUCATION PLAN
HONORS COURSE**

Ms. Plemmons – Room B16

NAME OF COURSE: Advanced Biology II
GRADE(S) OFFERED: 11 & 12 SCHOOL: Tuscola
PREREQUISITES: Biology & Chemistry

CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENT:

1. "C" or better average in chemistry
2. Successful performance on biology and chemistry end-of-course test with an 80 or better
3. Application essay (see attached page for details)
4. Parent approval

WAYS IN WHICH CONTENT AND INSTRUCTION ARE MODIFIED FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING AND GIFTED STUDENTS:

1. All materials are and workload is at advanced level, including text
2. Independent study is required
3. Research projects

OTHER INFORMATION:

Students will be required to make up all missed labs or projects (before or after school).

Advanced Biology II is designed as a lecture, independent study, laboratory, and field studies class. Students will be engaged in extensive outdoor field studies and laboratory investigations in the areas of biological science.

As an advanced biology student, I understand that I will be asked to work outside whenever weather permits. That includes cold weather. Improper footwear and lack of warm clothes will not excuse me from the assignment. I may be exposed to poison ivy and stinging insects. While working on outside assignments, I agree to work in my assigned area at all times.

Further, I also understand that animal dissections are a part of the curriculum. I will participate in all dissections. There will be no assignments that will be offered as an alternative to dissections.

I _____ **AGREE TO ALL OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS.**
(print name)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature: _____

*(Be sure to include your essay as described on next page)

Your Essay

This course can be directed by what you, as students, would like to study. Please write an one-page essay describing the areas of biology appeal to you and why you would like to explore these further in advanced biology. Also, inform me of your career goals, even if they are unrelated to biology.