ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE APPLICATION

STUDENT NAME: _____ **(please print)**

NAME OF COURSE: Advanced Placement Biology

GRADE(S) OFFERED: 11 & 12 SCHOOL: Tuscola

PREREQUISITES: Biology & Chemistry

CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENT:

1. A or B average in previous science courses
2. Exceptional performance on biology end-of-course test (level IV only)
3. Application essay (see attached page for details)
4. Recommendation from biology teacher (see form on reverse side)
5. Parent approval
6. Commitment to take the AP Biology exam at the end of the year ($89 fee)
7. Commitment to complete summer reading assignment & participation in online discussion forum.

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

1. All materials are and workload is college level, including text
2. Independent study using online textbook resources is required
3. Required reading over the summer prior to class
4. Research papers and online discussion

OTHER INFORMATION:

Students will be required to spend extra time in class (before or after school) for projects and labs.

Student Email (for summer communication):_____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____
Date

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____
Date

Essay for AP Biology Enrollment

The class focuses on these 4 BIG IDEAS in BIOLOGY:

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 demonstrate that you have a serious desire to take this course, please write a one page essay which explains your interest in one of the above topics. Please include a paragraph about your career goals and what you hope to get from this class.

SUMMER READING AGREEMENT FOR AP BIOLOGY

Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body by Neil Shubin

2008 Paperback: 256 pages ; **ISBN-10:** 0307277453 or **ISBN-13:** 978-0307277459

A Note from Author Neil Shubin

This book grew out of an extraordinary circumstance in my life. On account of faculty departures, I ended up directing the human anatomy course at the University of Chicago medical school. Anatomy is the course during which nervous first-year medical students dissect human cadavers while learning the names and organization of most of the organs, holes, nerves, and vessels in the body. This is their grand entrance to the world of medicine, a formative experience on their path to becoming physicians. At first glance, you couldn't have imagined a worse candidate for the job of training the next generation of doctors: I'm a fish paleontologist.

It turns out that being a paleontologist is a huge advantage in teaching human anatomy. Why? The best roadmaps to human bodies lie in the bodies of other animals. The simplest way to teach students the nerves in the human head is to show them the state of affairs in sharks. The easiest roadmap to their limbs lies in fish. Reptiles are a real help with the structure of the brain. The reason is that the bodies of these creatures are simpler versions of ours.

During the summer of my second year leading the course, working in the Arctic, my colleagues and I discovered fossil fish that gave us powerful new insights into the invasion of land by fish over 375 million years ago. That discovery and my foray into teaching human anatomy led me to a profound connection. That connection became this book.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I agree to purchase and read the book described above and prepare to discuss it as requested during the summer before enrollment in AP Biology at Tuscola HS.

_____ _____

Student signature Date

_____ _____

Parent signature Date

RECOMMENDATION FOR AP BIOLOGY

STUDENT NAME: _____

TEACHER NAME: _____

Please sign if you agree that this student has demonstrated academic ability and maturity and is capable of succeeding in a college level science class.

_____

Teacher Signature Date