



Saint Bonaventure High School

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From: Timothy R Ambler

Fall 2011

To: Biology Advanced Students and Parents,

We are going to be spending quite some time together this year, so I thought that I should introduce myself. I live in Ventura with my wife, Mary, and our two children. I am a former U. S. Marine, having spent time serving our country in the late 1980's. I enjoy fishing, tennis, computers and almost anything science related and I am always ready to hear about your thoughts in these matters, when appropriate.

Although a Southern California native from the Los Angeles area, I grew up primarily in Louisiana where I went to Louisiana Tech University after high school but felt tired of academics after two years. I then joined the Marine Corps and used the experience to mature and build self-discipline. While in the Corps I was able to see some of the world and it opened up my eyes to the state of things globally and made me really appreciate America. After the Corps, I settled in Ventura, returned to school at UCSB, and earned my B.A. in Biology, finishing with my Masters of Education and teaching credential in 1995. I have been at SBHS since 1996.

In regards to this class: I have high expectations for you because I know that everyone is capable of doing great work when they put their minds and energy into it. This class is an honours level class and adapting to the workload is something that we all must do. I know that you can do it. Try not to get discouraged with things if you feel overwhelmed or don't understand at first. If you are struggling, the best solution is to ask for help from someone - teachers, counsellors, parents, we are all here to help you and enjoy doing so. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness or ineptitude, it is a sign of someone who cares about themselves and their education. I will always be happy to answer your questions, whether in class or out.

To the parents: I know that you place a high value on your child's education and it is my goal to deliver a sound, challenging science education for your child. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions regarding this class. We need to stay in contact and together we can ensure that your child gets a first rate education.

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Sincerely,

Timothy R Ambler

Pride

Mr. Ambler's Goals and Expectations

1. To show you that I care about you as a person first and foremost.
2. To create an environment where **everyone** has a chance to learn.
3. To expand your interest in science and develop your ability to explore the world around you in a scientific manner.

Communication

We can expect of each other:

1. To be respectful of all others in the classroom at all times.
2. To come to class on time, and be prepared when the bell rings with all necessary materials.
3. To put forth our best effort at all times.
4. To adhere to policies as set forth in the Student-Parent Handbook / Faculty Handbook
5. To be patient with each other. We all want to learn.

Respect

Grading Procedures:

Grades: While grades are not more important than the material learned, they provide the best way for the school to keep records of your academic achievements. The class is run on a **straight point system**. One point on a test is equal to one point of homework is equal to one lab point. **In general**, the point breakdown will be as follows:

For each quarter:

Tests/Quizzes	45%
Homework/Class work/Labs	45%
Participation (QOD's etc...)	10%

For each semester:

Quarter 1	40%
Quarter 2	40%
Semester Exam	20%

TESTS will usually be about every two weeks. Quizzes can be at any time and will usually **not** be announced.

HOMEWORK and class work can be done in pen or pencil. Homework will be assigned most weeknights and often on weekends. All work must be properly titled / labelled as to what the assignment is and whose it is and done on standard loose-leaf paper with no fringe attached. If it has fringe attached or is not titled properly, it may not be accepted and you may receive no credit. If your handwriting is illegible or extremely messy, I reserve the right to have you type up your work.

NOTEBOOK: You need to have a separate three-ring binder or notebook **JUST FOR THIS CLASS** so that you can keep all the papers handed back to you for future use (like studying for finals). Save this page in your class binder, as it will come in handy in the future.

ALL necessary materials (textbook/pen/pencil/paper/binder) should be brought to class every day.

COMPUTERS: You will be using the computers in this classroom and on campus for this class. You must adhere to SBHS policies for using them. These include but are not limited to always using your own personal login for accessing the machine and not using them inappropriately or for any other reason than is specified for the assignment at hand. A portion of the class involves using a computer that can access the textbook's website and doing some work on the computer. If your home machine is not up to the task then you will need to make time somewhere else to do so. (The student computers here on campus (the library, this classroom, or the computer lab) can all access and use these resources)

KEEP EVERYTHING THAT IS GRADED FOR THIS CLASS! If there is a discrepancy about your grades then you must have proof about your grades or they stay as recorded in the grade book. They will also give you study and review material.