



**SAINT
JOSEPH
PREP**

Mr. Christopher Hickman
Science Department Chair
chris.hickman@saintjosephprep.org
617-254-8383 x1235

AP Bio
Grade 11/12

What's The Big Idea? This course is designed in accordance with the College Board frameworks using inquiry-based learning. Junior and senior level students are introduced to the four Big Ideas of Biology, which are broken down into more detailed *enduring concepts* throughout each chapter, and then brought together as connections are made and repeated within each unit. The four Big Ideas are 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, and 4) biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties. Students will be prepared for the AP Exam through diverse types of assessments and collaborative work. Students develop and refine skills necessary for lab work, reading and writing in the sciences, use of technology for note-taking, research, presentations, data collection and analysis, virtual lab work, and communication. By the end of this course, students will have demonstrated their skills in the lab, and their mastery of the four Big Ideas using specific examples to explain a wide range of concepts. All students are required to take the AP Biology exam in May.