

Biology Summer Assignment: Introduce Yourself to Mr. Hach

DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Hello and welcome to Biology!

For the first assignment of the year, I would like each of you to write me a letter, introducing yourself to me. You can tell me whatever information *you think* is important about yourself.

This *could* include:

- hobbies and interests
- likes and dislikes (both academic, and non-academic)
- passions and goals (for this course and/or for the future)
- what your family and friends are like
- your cultural and language background
- how you learn best, your academic strengths
- challenges that you have faced in school in the past
- how you have experienced school in the past
- your favorite music, TV shows, or movies
- a picture of yourself that you feel expresses something about who you are
- illustrations, poems, or other art
- favorite quotations or sayings
- what you hope to get from this course
- anything else that might help me to be a better teacher for you this year.

You don't need to include all of the things listed here, just whatever is important about you. I have seen great letters that address all of the above topics and great letters that focus in on just one or two of them – again, write about what matters to you.

I would also like you to tell me what you would like to get from our time together in Biology class this year.

Anything you share in your letter will remain private.

Please note:

- you may type this letter or hand-write it, as long as it is easy for me to read
- make sure your letter is substantial enough to give me a good sense of who you are (take a look at my letter at the end of this document for a general guideline on length/depth)
- put your first and last name at the top of the page

PARENTS:

You have homework too! I would appreciate it if you would take the time to write me a brief note that will help me to get to know your student a little better (there is no length requirement for you!).

I only get to spend a short time with these awesome people, so please tell me some of the things that make them great. Also, you have experienced the ups and downs of your student's schooling, so you have a good sense of what works for them and what doesn't. I want any and all information that will help me to be the absolute best teacher I can be, so feel free to tell me whatever you think is important for me to know.

Please email your letter to bhach@nya.org.

Thank you! Bryce Hach

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope this finds you well and you had a wonderful summer! My name is Bryce Hach and I teach biology, AP environmental science, and systems thinking here at North Yarmouth Academy. I have loved the subject of biology my entire life and I look forward to sharing these subjects just as I look forward to meeting you!

I am originally from Iowa and grew up in Colorado. After graduating from Colorado College in 1998, I became a public high school science teacher and football coach in the Mississippi Delta with Teach For America, in one of the poorest corners of the United States.

I then completed the Coro Public Policy Fellows program in St. Louis, an intensive one-year fellowship in public policy leadership where you work in leadership roles in all sectors and then a Master's of Science in public policy management from Carnegie Mellon University.

In 2004, I moved back to Colorado, and took over the role as the Executive Director of a private foundation where he oversaw the transition from supporting local scholarships and outreach in science teachers in high school science education. After this, I took on the role of Executive Director of a multi-sector collaborative effort to reduce homelessness in Fort Collins, Colorado.

In 2013, my family and I made an intentional move to Falmouth, Maine. I initially served as the Development Director of Maine Audubon and taught a graduate course in nonprofit and public management at the Muskie School, the University of Maine's public policy school. In 2018, my wife and I started a business called Maine Food for Thought, an educational food tour based on locally and sustainably-sourced food, which had a great short run until the COVID-19 pandemic made impossible to run the business.



I started at North Yarmouth Academy in 2020 and I am excited to be back this fall.

In addition to these professional roles, I am also a graduate and serve on the Board of Directors of the Maine Master Naturalist Program, a member of the Falmouth's Town Council, an education ambassador for the Center for Disease Control, and the Chair of the Board of Directors for Population Connection, an environmental nonprofit based in Washington DC working to address population stabilization around the world through education and advocacy.

My daughter, Ivy, goes to North Yarmouth Academy as well. She is a ninth grader this year.

I am excited to be your biology teacher this year! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Thanks and best regards-
Mr. Hach