Welcome to Advanced Placement Psychology at Carlton J. Kell High School! During the 2013 – 2014 school year, we will be exploring the world of psychology, improving our research/writing skills and preparing for the AP Examination in the spring. Successful completion of this course will yield a greater understanding of psychology, yourself, and the world around you. It is also my goal to prepare you for the content, format, a rigor of a college level course and examination.

To prepare for this course, you will need to complete the following assignments over the summer. This will help prepare you for the content and format of the course.

All assignments will be due to Mrs. Kurtz in class by the end of the first week of school. If for some reason you are not able to be in school this day, you will need to email the assignment to leah.kurtz@cobbk12.org before the end of the school day. If you have difficulty completing assignments on time, you may want to consider if Advanced Placement Psychology is the right choice for you.

Special thanks to Emily Burnham of Pencader Charter School for this assignment.

Assignment 1: Summer Scavenger Hunt: Getting to Know Psychology:

**Directions:** Use the Library, Internet, Newspapers and magazines to answer questions in the attached “Getting to Know Psychology” Scavenger Hunt about the nine major areas of research and investigation in psychology. Your answers should be complete and descriptive. After all, this assignment is to help introduce you to this course. Absolutely NO plagiarism, cheating, etc., will be tolerated. This is a college level course!

Name: ____________________________

**Getting to Know Psychology Scavenger Hunt**

**Directions:** Complete the following questions as an introduction to the 9 subfields of psychology. Use the suggested websites to answer the questions. Some of the questions will ask you to attach an article or a picture. When doing this, label each and attach in the order they are asked for in the scavenger hunt.

**Biological Basis of Behavior**
This emphasizes the relationship between biology and behavior. Here we will examine how the nervous system, endocrine system, and the brain affect behavior and decision making.

Go here: http://www.emc.maricopa.edu/faculty/farabee/BIOBK/BioBookNERV.html

1- What are neurons? How do they work?

2- What is the function of the peripheral nervous system?

3- What is the function of the central nervous system?

Go here:
4- What are some things regulated by the endocrine system?

5- What are the major glands of the endocrine system?

6- Describe the adrenal glands, what functions do they serve?


7- What does MRI stand for? What are MRIs of the brain used for?


8- What does PET stand for? What functions can a PET scan monitor?

9- Search the internet for a diagram of “Brain Structures and their functions”. Print out the diagram and attach it to your scavenger hunt. On the back of the diagram, list and explain 3 parts of the brain and their functions.


10- Take the Right Brain vs. Left Brain test. Are you right brained or left brained? Do you agree with the description of your dominant side?

**Sensation and Perception**
This subfield involves processing the information gathered by the nervous system and the brain into meaningful experiences and feelings.

13- Search one of the following websites and find an article that deals with sensation and perception. This article should focus on any of the following: anatomy and function of the eye or ear, sensory disabilities such as deafness and color blindness, color theories of vision, or the role played by experience and culture in sensory perception.

http://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/index.php
http://www.sciencedaily.com/articles/mind_brain/psychology/
In the space below, summarize the article and describe how it relates to sensation and perception.

**States of Consciousness**

The focus in this field is on states of mind and how they are altered through experiences, sleep, and biological functions.

Go Here:

http://alleydog.com/topics/consciousness_sleep.php

14- What was the focus of William James’ studies of consciousness?

15- What are the levels of consciousness as described by Sigmund Freud?

16- Describe the views of Carl Jung.

17- What is REM sleep?

18- Describe meditation and its purposes.
19- How can drugs impact consciousness?

Learning
There are several types of learning which psychologists focus on. Research and practice can center around the way the brain retains information as well as how learning can impact and change behavior.

Go Here: http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/medicine/pavlov/readmore.html

20- Describe the Pavlov’s Dog experiment. What was Pavlov trying to investigate?

21- Why were Pavlov’s experiments so important to psychology?

Go here: http://www.simplypsychology.org/operant-conditioning.html

22- What is operant conditioning?

23- Whose research was Skinner’s work based on?

24- Take this quiz on learning styles http://www.edutopia.org/multiple-intelligences-learning-styles-quiz

In the space below, analyze the quiz questions and results. What types of questions were asked? Do you think the description of the results could help you in your study habits? Why do you think people learn in different ways?
Cognition
Information and research here will focus on memory, thinking, language and intelligence.

25- Search the internet for 2 cartoons like the one above that discuss memory. Attach the cartoons to your scavenger hunt. Explain how each might relate to memory and psychology.

Read this article: http://www.davidmyers.org/Brix?pageID=65

26- In the space below, discuss one of your own fears that might seem illogical to others. What are the influences on our intuitions about risk?
Motivation and Emotion
Here psychologists focus on the influences of motivations, and the causes and impacts of human emotions.
Go Here: http://psychology.about.com/od/motivation/a/drive-reduction-theory.htm

27- Describe the drive-reduction theory.

Go Here: http://allpsych.com/psychology101/emotion.html

28- What are the parts of the James-Lange theory?

29- How does the Cannon-Bard theory look different?

30- Which of the theories do you feel is most accurate? Explain your answer.

Developmental Psychology
Focus on changes in behavior, emotion, cognition and perception throughout the life span.

31- As an introduction to some of the issues of developmental psychology, read the following article: http://www.winnipegsun.com/news/canada/2009/05/10/9411096-sun.html

In the space below, discuss 3 specific ways this article relates to psychology. What do you think about the topic discussed? Describe your opinion in detail.
Assignment 2: Getting to know YOU

Directions:
Part 1: Fill-in the attached “Get to know YOU” Info Sheet
Part 2: Consider the following question:

“There is much debate and research in the field of psychology about whether ‘Nature’ (biochemistry, genes, physical traits) or ‘Nurture’ (family, environment, culture) has the most influence on our behavior, thought processes, and personality. Discuss the ways you think nature and nurture have influenced both your everyday thoughts and behaviors as well as your life goals and ambitions”

Your response should be 2-3 pages in length, typed and double-spaced using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1” margins. Use the following format for the heading:

Your Name
Summer Essay
AP Psychology
Mrs. Kurtz
Day Month 2013

Title
GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Your PHOTO HERE

Name:

Date of Birth:

Astrological Sign:

Favorite School Subject:

Favorite Book:

Favorite Movie:

Favorite Quote:

One thing I did this summer was...

Next summer I would like to....

In Five Years, I would like to be...

Who is your role model? Why?