

Science Department

Albemarle High School

Charlottesville, Virginia

February 11, 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian,

For well over a decade, we have been taking our Advanced Placement Biology students, and much more recently our Honors Biology students, to a wonderful biotechnology symposium in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Over that time, we have been impressed with the quality of the symposium, which usually includes a couple of lectures, often from prominent members of the biotechnology community who then answer questions directly from students. The symposium also offers our students the chance to interact with top students from other school divisions.

However, the most important benefit comes from the included laboratory experience. Students have the opportunity to perform a DNA fragment analysis utilizing gel electrophoresis, usually within a forensics-like scenario. In the past, most of our AP Biology students have completed the tier 1 lab that is available at the symposium. It is our hope that we can have our Honors Biology students perform the tier 1 laboratory activity and then encourage many of them to return as AP Biology students to take advantage of the tier 2 lab. We believe that this would be a great asset to our overall biology program.

Therefore, please consider allowing your son or daughter to attend a biology field trip to the Shenandoah Valley Biotechnology Symposium in Harrisonburg, Virginia on Friday, March 20. We will need to charter buses to transport students to and from this event. The cost of the symposium, which includes the laboratory fee and lunch, is \$25. We anticipate that transportation will cost \$20. A limited number of scholarships will be available so please contact your son or daughter's biology teacher if you are interested. Your prompt attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. We ask that you please send this signed permission form, with a check if possible, by **Friday, February 27, 2015**. For more information regarding the symposium, please visit the following Internet link for a brochure - <http://goo.gl/Irv9sn>.

Sincerely,

AHS Biology Teachers

My son/daughter _____ has my permission to attend the field trip to the *Shenandoah Valley Biotechnology Symposium* in Harrisonburg, Virginia on **Friday, March 20**. I have attached a check payable to **Albemarle High School** for **\$45** to cover the cost of the field trip, which includes the \$25 symposium fee and \$20 to cover the cost of transportation.

Parent Signature