COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An introductory course which investigates the various principles of biology. Emphasis will be on energy flow, biochemistry, cellular biology, and genetics along with some human genetics, human reproduction, evolution, and ecology to include a study of the bike path area near the school. This course fulfills one year towards the science requirement for graduation, and meets the UC A-G requirements.

This is a California Standards Based class. To review the state standards visit their web site at: http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
* To develop an understanding and appreciation for the science of life.
* To develop laboratory skills through use of standard laboratory equipment.
* To apply the biological concepts learned in the course to the world around, or at least to the “bike path world”.
* To understand the importance of classroom participation.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:
Lecture: Examination material will be taken from topics covered in lecture and from your textbook chapters. A calendar of pacing, lectures, homework assignments, and exam dates for each chapter will be available prior to the beginning of the chapter on the instructor’s web page. Audiovisual materials and guest speakers will be presented to emphasize certain subject matter.

* Students are expected to keep a lecture notebook in Cornell note style as part of class credit.

Laboratories: These are designed to supplement the lecture. Generally, each chapter will have a minimum of two corresponding lab activities. It is impossible to make up some labs.

Student Support Plan: If you have any questions please feel free to email me, or stop by room 910. I am available for students before school, at lunch, and after school.

A. Before instruction:
* Unit calendar to include:
  1. daily unit objectives, 2. homework assignments, 3. laboratory activities, 4. quizzes, and 5. exam schedule.
* Tutoring available before school
* Students have access to classroom facility before school to work on homework individually, or in groups
* Ongoing instructor assessment and revision of all curricula (all materials are instructor generated and available on the web page)
* Homework packets are aligned with the lectures, and textbook

B. During instruction:
* Assessment of student understanding through:
  1. regular quizzes based on daily activities such as homework assignments, assigned text reading, lab activities, and lecture notes. Students may use their lecture notes for announced quizzes.
  2. index card review (individual student response)
  3. special strategies for note taking (“blue it’s for you”)
  4. pre-lab assessment (teacher approval)
* Use of technology for student presentations, data analysis, and lectures
* Peer group activities and peer assessment
* Instructor models organizational skills that students incorporate into their daily classroom activities

C. After assessments:
* Tutoring available after school (no appointment necessary)
* Students can correct their incomplete homework for full credit (for that day only), if it is completed during after school tutoring with instructor
* Regular parent contacts to encourage academic performance, punctuality, and attendance
* All assignments will be graded and returned within a 24-48 hour period (some exceptions may apply)
* Grades are posted in a timely fashion for student and parent information
* Students will be recognized, and rewarded for academic performance and attendance

MATERIALS:
Text: Biology, An Ecological Approach, by BSCS (this may be left at home).
Supplies: A spiral notebook (specifically for this class), paper, and pen or pencil.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:
* Students are expected to attend class daily.
* Assigned work is due on the designated day given. Late labs will be accepted one day late for 90% credit.

In case of an absence, the assigned work is due on the day of your return. If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to check the assignment calendar. NO LATE HOMEWORK is accepted!
If you are on campus you are obligated to turn in any assignment due for that day. See chapter calendars.
* Tests not taken on the assigned day must be made up in class following your return. There is a penalty for habitual absences on test day – see test avoidance in student handbook.

If you are on campus you are obligated to take the test or a zero will result.
Note: Tests not taken on the assigned day must be made up following your return. The second absence on a test day will result in a 10% reduction of the test score and so on.
* At no time is any electronic communication device (ECD), allowed to be in use during class time without teacher approval, especially during quizzes and or exams, or a zero will result.
Note: Any person, including a pupil using an electronic listening or recording device in any classroom without prior consent of the teacher, and parents of classroom students is prohibited. Ed. Code: 51512
* Pop Quizzes may NOT be made up for any reason– attendance is critical!
* Lab reports/activities and/or homework are due at the beginning of the period unless noted otherwise. If you are absent on a lab day, you must make it up the day of your return before school, at lunch, or after school if absence is excused or a zero will result. If you are on campus you are obligated to turn in the assignment or a zero will result. There is no penalty for turning in assignments early.
Note: if you are going to be absent due to a school sponsored event you have prior permission from the teacher to participate. You MUST take the test early, and turn the assignment in before you leave campus, or it will not be accepted for credit! (SDUSD Procedure # 4585).
* Students may not be able to complete all missed assignments (e.g., “class participation” assignments can not be made up such as some pre-lab discussions, laboratory assignments, and simulations, etc.)
* Class Participation is an integral part of students’ learning experiences, one of the course objectives is students must attend class to participate. This is not a correspondence course. LESSON(S) WILL NOT BE RETAUGHT DUE TO STUDENT ABSENCE(S) OR TARDINESS. See my web page for PowerPoint lectures and labs.

Hall Passes: Appropriate passes will be issued, but must be made up that same day at lunch or after school.

Grading Policy: Quizzes, labs, and homework are graded on a point system. A student’s total points are divided by the total points possible in the course and converted to a percentage. See current class grades on PowerSchool. You can link via Ms. Brammer’s web page at: http://www.ljhs.sandi.net/faculty/SBrammer/biology.html

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADING SCALE</th>
<th>Homework /Class Work /Participation</th>
<th>Labs and Laboratory Write-ups</th>
<th>Tests and Quizzes</th>
<th>Final Exam</th>
<th>Notebook</th>
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Tardiness/Late Excused (L): Be in your seat with the required materials when the bell rings. Excessive tardiness will lower your citizenship and can eventually your academic grade! This applies for the entire semester.

1st – 3rd tardy → conference with student - no penalty
4th – 6th tardy → parent and counselor contact; lowered citizenship
7th tardy or more → U in citizenship and referral to Vice Principal

* NOTE: Late Excused (L) will affect your citizenship grade.
Unexcused Absences/Truancies/Late Excused: Any truancy will result in a zero for the work/exams assigned for that particular day(s), and an automatic “U” in citizenship.
* Seniors: if you wish to “walk” at Graduation Ceremony DO NOT HAVE UNVERIFIED ABSENCE(S), TRUANCIES(Z), TARDINESS(T), or LATE EXCUSED(L)!

Attendance: Class attendance is critical. Part of the student’s grade is based on daily class participation that each student earns. Class participation and attendance are tied together; therefore, class participation cannot be made up. Class participation credit averages to 0.6% for each day of the semester. Absences can negatively impact your semester grade. Students may not be able to complete all missed assignments (e.g., “class participation”, pre-lab discussions, lab assignments, post-lab discussions, simulations, and group activities, etc.)

I am UNABLE to sign CIS Contracts (Independent Study Contracts); SDUSD Procedure # 4316. “Excessive absences” (no matter the reason) in a semester can result in a “NC” (no credit); SDUSD Administrative Procedure # 4705. See chapter calendars.
Code of Conduct: Students are subject to charges of misconduct concerning, but not limited to, the following:
(see LJHS Student Handbook for specifics)
* Academic dishonesty on assignments and exams – an immediate zero and “U”
* Physical or verbal disruption of instructional activity
* Disorderly, lewd, indecent or obscene conduct
* Eating or drinking in the classroom except for water
* Wearing of hats in the classroom
* Wearing of hats and/or clothing that advertise obscenities, alcohol or drugs
* Gum chewing
* NO LEANING IN STOOLS or YOU MUST STAND – This is a SAFETY ISSUE!!

STUDENT SIGNATURE: ________________________________ DATE: __________

PARENT SIGNATURE: ________________________________ DATE: __________
20807(a). 06/14 Teacher’s course requirements, procedures, and practices are not limited to everything included above.