**Biology** Ms. Harris •rharris@jsusd.org •C31

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Biology is a year long laboratory science course that follows the NGSS Living Earth Standards. Students will gain foundational knowledge of the life sciences and deepen their scientific literacy by participating in active, authentic science practices, scientific writing, and reading current science articles. The units covered are:

1. *Ecosystem Interactions & Energy*
2. *Earth’s Atmosphere: Photosynthesis & Respiration*
3. *Evolution*
4. *Inheritance of Traits*
5. *Structure, Function, and Growth*
6. *Ecosystem Stability*

**Materials**

Students must provide a **composition notebook**. Each day, come with a notebook, assignments, and writing utensil. Colored pens/pencils, highlighters, and scissors are useful but are not required.

*Book: Biology: The Dynamics of Life, from Glencoe Science*

**Attendance Policy**

It is your responsibility to come to class each day prepared to learn and to make up work missed from absences. Not all activities can be done outside of class, but with advanced notice I will ensure you make up any missed learning!

* *Unexcused absences, tardies, or early departures:* Expect to earn zero on missed work.
* *Planned excused absences:* Notify me at least 1 week in advance so I can prep work.
* *Unexpected excused absences:* Check Google Classroom for missed work. Email or meet with me outside of class time (ASAP) for clarification or to make up in person activities

**Course Requirements**

*Labs & Projects (35%):* Labs are a significant portion of the course grade and occur regularly. Students will be graded on participation, clean-up, and write-ups. Instructions and safety protocol are reviewed before each lab. Students are responsible for following directions, including safety protocols and dress code, in the lab at all times. A safety violation may result in immediate removal and the student will earn a grade of zero. If you are absent (excused) on a lab day, you will have limited opportunities at lunch and after school to complete the lab.

*Test/Quizzes (35%):* Open notebook quizzes will be given several times a quarter. They will not always be announced in advance. Each unit will have a closed notebook test. Test dates will be posted at least a week in advance.

*Notebook (20%):* Most assignments and classwork will be in our notebooks. There will be several notebook checks each quarter. Students must have notebooks EVERY day.

*Assignments (10%)*: Due at the beginning of class in the posted location. I try to limit the amount of homework in my course, but some homework will be necessary to reinforce topics learned in class or to complete classwork.

*\*\*\*Late Work Policy:* In science, concepts build on one another, so turning in late work is strongly discouraged, but sometimes things happen! Late work will be accepted with a 20% reduction in credit. Students will be clearly notified about any assignment that will not be accepted late. No late work will be accepted after the unit test.

**Expectations**

*Academic Honesty*: All students will be expected to follow the JSHS Academic Honesty Policy at all times. This form will be given to you in your English Class. Please review it carefully, as any violation of the policy will result in no credit on the assignment.

*Disruptive behavior/Consequences*

As a teacher, my goal is to maintain an environment that supports all students in learning. Consequences for disruptive behavior include: making up time at lunch, referrals to administration, and calling home.

*Food & Drink* - Our classroom is a laboratory, so no food may be consumed at any time. You may drink water from a closable bottle, except during labs

*Electronic Devices -* Phones, laptops, and chromebooks are essential tools, but distracting. Devices are permitted in class as tools for learning, when a student has received permission, or when I have announced a tech break. Devices will not be permitted during group work, lectures, or any time they distract from learning.

**Contact/Office Hours**

I am almost available at lunch and after school (all days except Wednesday), except when I have scheduled meetings. I encourage you to come in if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, or if you just need somewhere to study.

If you are struggling at all, meet with me as soon as possible - I am here to help you!