[](http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2185/2292079476_59e4b31e01.jpg)[srobles@psusd.us](mailto:srobles@psusd.us) Instructor: S.Robles

760 202-6455 Room 662

[www.roblesrmhs@weebly.com](http://www.roblesrmhs@weebly.com)

# Living Earth

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed for students who have demonstrated a level of proficiency in mathematics and science. This course will introduce the student to some of the principles of biology and earth sciences which are relevant and informative, and which will help him/her function more effectively in this confusing and complex technological society. Living Earth is designed to provide a sound foundation in cell biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, earth science and physiology as outlined by the standards recommended by the California State Board of Education. Additionally, this course is designed to provide training in studying methodology tools intended to help students learn content in both this course and beyond.

This course is designed for college-bound students. It not only fulfills the 10 units of life science needed for graduation, but also fulfills a lab science requirement for colleges and universities.

**UNITS OF STUDY:** The sequence may change, but these are the areas that we plan to cover this year:

1. Introduction to earth’s history
2. Scientific Method
3. Physiology (including health)
4. Cell structure and function
5. Photosynthesis and cellular respiration
6. Fundamentals of genetics
7. DNA, genes and chromosomes
8. Protein synthesis
9. The biotechnical revolution
10. Evolution
11. Ecology

**OBJECTIVES:** The objectives of this course are: 1) to learn fundamental material in the above areas, in order to provide a solid background for future work in life sciences, 2) to provide hands-on experience in order to formalize lecture concepts, and introduce students to basic techniques that they can use in the future 3) to confirm and expand upon the philosophical basis of science, 4) to review the fundamentals of scientific investigation, 5) to nurture interest in the subject area and enthusiasm for future work.

**TEXT:** The principle text for this course is Biggs et. al., Biology. McGraw Hill Glencoe, USA, 2007.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

Your new knowledge and skills will be measured in various ways. This will include: small group work, individual class work, labs, traditional testing, homework assignments, oral presentations, notebook organization, projects etc. Your grade will be based on total points accumulated throughout each semester. 1/3 of your grade will consist of class work and homework, 1/3 from labs and projects and 1/3 from tests and quizzes. Your first semester grade is independent from your second semester grade (they will not be averaged together).

The grading scale will be as follows:

## A+ 97% - 100%

## A 94% - 96% B- 80% - 83% D+ 67% - 69%

## 90% – 93% C+ 77% - 79% D 64% - 66%

## B+ 87% – 89% C 74% - 76% D- 60% - 63%

## B 84% - 86% C- 70% - 73% F 0 – 59% (No credit)

***10% will be deducted for each day an assignment is late.***

**MATERIALS:**

Bring the following items with you to class **EVERY** day for full credit and the potential to maximize learning:

1. Spiral notebook with lined paper (journal). At least 70 pages. (You will need 1 per semester)
2. Notebook paper
3. Pens or pencils

## ATTENDANCE:

If you must miss a class (for whatever reason), **it** **is your responsibility to find out what you missed and what you need to make up.** See the daily assignment agenda in class or on my website if you have been absent.

**ELECTRONICS & MAKEUP:** No cell phone, stereo, iPod etc. use allowed in class unless it is part of a specific lesson. If I see them or hear them in class during inappropriate times, they will be confiscated. Please no grooming (makeup, hair brushing etc.) after class has begun. Grooming items will be confiscated if they are used during class time.

**IPAD & DEVICE RULES**:

1. Stay on task and focused

2. Use only apps listed on front whiteboard

3. Work with your partner when asked and share the device

4. Handle any borrowed devices with care and correctly return it to the cart when asked.

**CLASSROOM RULES:**

Respect yourselves and others…..

* Be nice. Be polite to me as I teach and allow your fellow classmates to learn. Respect the room and everything/everyone in it.

This includes:

* 1. following directions;
  2. being in your assigned seat at all times;
  3. bringing no food or drinks (except water) in the room;
  4. staying out of cabinets, drawers, my desk/area
  5. following all school rules found in the student handbook including

**Consequences:**

1st offense: Verbal warning

2nd offense: lunch detention/call home

3rd offense: referral (to office)

\* For any severe disruptions, defiance, or any dangerous behavior, there will be an immediate referral to the discipline office/ISSS.

**WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:**

1. I will be prepared to teach.
2. I am willing to help you before or after school and occasionally during lunch (just ask and we can figure out the best time on an individual basis).
3. I will keep a positive attitude and plan on learning from you as much as you learn from me.

**HELPFUL ITEMS:**

If you are able to donate, the following is a list of commonly used class items:

* *Pencils, markers, colored pencils, Scotch tape, glue, scissors, note cards and rubber gloves (for dissecting)*

***Thank you*!**

DO NOT REMOVE

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the above biology class syllabus. I also understand that my parent(s) and or guardian(s) and I must sign this document below and return it to Mrs. Robles.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Signature Date

How can we best contact you? (Phone number at home or work, best times, and/or email address):