Instructor: Mr. Kovach
Email: zachary.kovach@tuhsd.org
Phone: (623) 478-4584
Room/Office: 1202
Office Hours & Tutoring: After school by appointment
Website: www.azapes.weebly.com

Required Materials:
- Textbook
- Notebook
- #2 pencil w/ eraser
- Folder
- Enthusiasm

Course Description & Objectives:
This course will provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them.

For specific topics covered see APES website

Assessment:
Your participation and effort in the class help determine the grade you earn. Your grade will be calculated using your scores on assessments (50%), lab activities (20%), assignments (20%), and the final exam (10%). Assessments include tests, quizzes, formative, and summative assessments. You and your parent(s)/guardian(s) will be able to check your grades at any time on StudentVUE or ParentVUE. The following is the grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90—100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80—89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70—79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60—69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Extra Credit Work:
There will NOT be opportunities for individual extra credit assignments.

Absences/Tardy Policy (This is your warning):
Prompt attendance is critical for this class, as our time frame will require work from bell to bell and you will miss critical information if you are not present and ready to work when the bell rings. You will also find that daily attendance is your key to success in this class. Very few students can learn science from a textbook so keep absences to an absolute minimum. Every five unverified absences in a quarter will drop your grade by one letter.
Late Work/Make-Up Work Policy:
Missed exams and labs must be made up within three school days or they will be recorded as a zero; be prepared to turn in assignments and take missed quizzes the day you return to school from an absence. If an assignment is turned in 1-day late you will receive a 50% deduction, 2-days late or more you will receive a 0%.

Expectations for Behavior:
LJCHS and Tolleson District rules, attendance and tardy rules, and normal rules of courtesy shall prevail.

Please be aware of these specific topics as they will be consistently enforced by all staff.
- **Sweep:** Student’s entire body is in the door by the time the final bell finishes ringing.
- **Bathroom passes:** No passes will be given the first and last 10 minutes of class, as well as during both lunches (4th period).
- **Headphones, Dress Code, ID’s (see Student Handbook)**

Beyond that I have 4 classroom norms:
- **Be Positive**
- **Be Accountable**
- **Be Connected**
- **Be Knowledgeable**

Classroom Procedures:
- Bring your materials to class everyday
- Come into the classroom quietly and get ready for class
- All pencils should be sharpened before the bell rings
- All assignments need to have your first and last name, date, and class period
- Previous night’s assignments are due at the beginning of the period
- Questions and comments are always welcome so long as they are preceded by a raised hand and acknowledged by Mr. Kovach
- If the teacher is talking, you are seated and listening attentively
- Stay in your seat until class is dismissed by the teacher

Safety:
This course emphasizes classroom hands-on learning. There is a potential risk in participating in lab activities over the course of the year. Students will be instructed in safe laboratory procedures and all safety measures are required to be followed. Safety equipment is provided and must be used by all students. By signing the Student Safety Contract (separate document), you agree to follow the general rules of appropriate behavior for a classroom at all times

My Promise to You:
At times you may think I am being too demanding of you and your ability…and you are correct. I will push you to be your best. The skills you will learn in this class are those you will need to succeed in college and/or your career. It is my promise to:
- Increase your ability to think critically
- Sharpen your capacity to solve complex problems individually and with a group
- Grow your capability to work and communicate in various and diverse groups
- Intensify your aptitude in public speaking and presenting
- Increase your skills in technical reading and writing
- Strengthen your aptitude for persistence, perseverance, and tenacity
- Provide you the environment to cultivate your talent to think and reason scientifically