Instructor Contact Information:

Mr. McDermott

[jmcdermott@fjuhsd.org](mailto:jmcdermott@fjuhsd.org)

Room: 301

1. **Agriculture Science Classes**

Agriculture classes are very hands-on courses that are structured on the philosophy of learn by doing. Within these classes, students will be asked to work with a variety of animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry), working with fruit trees, grape vines, soil, a variety of plants, specimens, chemicals, ect. Students will be expected to participate in dissections and labs that deal with the above. If students opt out, they will be required to complete an alternate assignment. We will show videos of animal processing, veterinary procedures, Artificial insemination practices, and dissection videos that will need to be watched with professionalism and maturity. The agriculture industry is an immensely important part of our society and at times, there are topics that are controversial. These are great talking points of viewing both sides and concluding why as a society we do what we do. By taking this agricultural class, students will need to participate, maintain maturity, and be open minded.

1. **Course Description**

This course is a laboratory science course, designed for the college- bound student that focuses on growth and reproduction, genetics, animal behavior, animals and plant taxonomy, nutrition, health and disease, and the ecological relationship among plants, animals, and humans. Sustainable Ag Biology satisfies the FJUHSD life science graduation requirement, UC "d" and/or "g" requirement recommended for freshmen. Throughout the course, students’ coursework and grading will require participation in intracurricular FFA activities as well as the development and maintenance of an ongoing Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program in order to meet Career Technical Education Standards for Leadership and Work Experience.

**Supplies Needed:**

1. 1-inch Binder just for Biology
2. College ruled binder paper
3. Pencil/ Pen
4. Colored pencils or pens for color coding notes are strongly recommended
   * Red, Orange, Green, Blue, Purple, Black will match the teacher’s examples best

**Goals/Objectives**

1. Develop good habits, attitudes, judgements, cooperation and the ability to get along with others in a work environment.
2. Create a desire for good workmanship, attention to detail and job completion.
3. By good example, stimulate the student to keep an orderly shop.
4. Give students confidence in their abilities and skills in working with different tools.
5. Create a desire in students to seek additional skills and knowledge in a given area of interest.
6. **Topics to be covered**, but not limited to:
   1. Laboratory Safety
   2. The scientific method
   3. National FFA Organization and Leadership
   4. Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)
   5. Ecology
   6. Energy
   7. Cells & Body Systems
   8. Genetics
   9. Evolution
   10. Population Dynamics
   11. Human impact on the world

**Grading Scale Grade Break Down**

A= 100.00%- 90.00% **70%** -Class Assignments

B= 89.00%- 80.00% -Tests/Quizzes

C= 79.99%- 70.00% -Participation/Attendance

D=69.99%-60.00% **15%** - FFA Activities

F= at or below 59.99% **15%**  - SAE Project and AET

**\*\*\* Mr. McDermott reserves the right to add to/edit this agreement at any time during the year.**

\* Note: You must participate in approved FFA Activities each month and earn a total 30 FFA activity points per semester to earn full credit for the CTE Leadership Standard portion of your grade. These points can be earned after class, in the evenings, and weekends (Field days, conferences, contest practices, chapter, section, or region events, farm improvements, etc.). Upcoming events will be listed on the board in class, in the La Habra FFA Google Classroom, and the La Habra FFA website. Students will need to earn points each month and points will be tracked on a monthly basis in the grade book.

\* Note: All students enrolled in an agriculture class must conduct an approved SAE project each semester and keep accurate, up-to-date record books under the guidance of an advisor to meet the Work Experience CTE Career Standard portion of their grade. A project consists of 40 documented hours of agricultural work experience in the student’s record book. This roughly translates to 1 hour per week. To obtain the minimum 40 hour requirement, the student must complete the project from start to finish or they forfeit the 40 hours. This will result in losing 15 percent of the student's overall grade. Students will be responsible for signing up for an SAE project by September 24th. Mandatory 1st meetings are the first week of October.

1. **Cheating**

Any student(s) caught cheating on a test/quiz, or copying any portion of assignments, or allowing other students to perform work for them, will receive a **ZERO** for that activity. They will **NOT** be able to make it up for partial credit nor will they be allowed to enter that project or any project at any possible fair opportunities. Consequences will follow FJUHSD policies.

1. **Make-Up Work**

It is the **student’s responsibility** to ask for any work or assignment that was missed. Students are allowed to make up class assignments, without penalty, two days after their excused absence, according to FJUHSD policy. Late work will be allowed with a penalty of 50% per day from the total score of assignment total earned.

1. **CTE Career Standard, Work Experience - Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) Projects**

All students enrolled in any Agriculture Course at La Habra High School will be responsible for an SAE project that is an organized activity outside of class time with supervision from one of the agriculture department instructors. Projects can include, but not limited to: Agriculture Science Research, any Agriculture related job placement or volunteer work, small and/or large livestock, landscape and plant management, Greenhouse plant/flower production and floral work. If students have an interest in a project, but not sure on the relation to the Agriculture industry, they are advised to consult with one of the Agriculture instructors.

1. **CTE Career Standard, Leadership - FFA/Leadership Activities**

At La Habra High School, it is our goal to assist students of all ages in developing their qualities as a leader. Students enrolled in an agriculture course have the opportunity to become a member of the National FFA Organization, which is the largest youth leadership organization in the country, simply by being enrolled in an Agriculture Course. In order to assist the student in developing their leadership qualities we are giving them the opportunity to earn credit simply by earning a minimum of 30 activity points during each semester of class enrollment. Involvement beyond the minimum requirement may result in extra credit towards the student’s classroom grade. Point system will be provided to the students, posted in the classroom and on the class website. FFA activities will be available on a calendar in my classroom, class website, and chapter calendar provided at the first FFA meeting or upon request. We, as a department staff, uphold the same participation policy and encourage all students to get involved in the leadership opportunities FFA presents to them.

1. **Class Expectations**

Students are to follow all rules imposed by La Habra High School and Fullerton Joint Unified High School District. Students and parents should review the Student/Parent handbook throughout the year. If there is a concern with any class activity, students are expected to inform and communicate with the instructor prior to the activity. Respect and communication is a big deal, therefore it is expected to be performed by all students and the instructor. Classroom policies and expectations will be discussed in class and posted in the classroom. **Safety is our number one priority.**

**Classroom Expectations:** All rules of LHHS will be followed while in class and on campus.

1. **Come to class on time. In your seats, working on the warm-up quietly when the bell rings.**
2. **Attend to personal needs before coming to class**. Please do not ask unless you have a true emergency.
   1. **Bathroom**  – don’t ask if:
      1. Someone has already gone to the bathroom – one person at a time
      2. First 10 minutes – you should have gone during passing period
      3. Last 10 minutes – you can wait until passing period
      4. We are doing something – you should be doing it
3. **Remain seated and on task**. Some labs and activities will require you to move around the classroom.
4. **No food, gum, or drinks are allowed in class.** If you have any of these, they need to be put away in a backpack or in your locker. Water in a screw or flip top container is acceptable on non-lab days.
5. **Bring required materials every day**. You will have time to work on assignments in class and it would be to your benefit to have your materials with you. If you are consistently not bringing your notebook and not working on your assignments, you will lose participation points and/or parents will be notified.
6. **Talk only when permitted**. Be respectful when the teacher or other students are addressing the class. Quiet talking may be allowed or required at times.
7. **Do your own work**. Students caught cheating will receive a zero and a phone call home for the first offense. Additional offenses will result in harsher punishment. Both the student who shares their work **AND** the person who copies it will suffer the same consequences. I expect you to do your own work and not let others copy it.
8. **Be respectful**. Show respect to your classroom, teacher, and classmates; this includes using manners. Disrespect and profanity will not be tolerated.
9. **Always do your best.** Complete assignments on time and with your best effort.
10. **Be Productive**. I give class time for assignments to minimize the amount of additional homework you will have so wasting your class time just inflicts more work to do at home.
11. **Phone use:** Students will not be allowed to use their phones during class unless specified by the instructor.

**Follow the directions before filling out the following page.**

**Return the ONLY the last page to your teacher.**

Please Log in to Google Classroom with your student & read the POA located under the Syllabus topic, before signing this document.

Agriculture Class Agreement

Please read the following sections carefully:

* Grading Policies
* Course Outline
* Guidelines / Rules
* Grading Policies and Class Agreement
* Program of Activities (POA- Scan the QR code or go to Google Classroom under the Syllabus topic)

Once you have reviewed the documents listed above, please complete this form and return it to Mr. McDermott by Tuesday, **August 22nd**. If you have any concerns or questions, please don’t hesitate to ask.

# Student Agreement

I, (print your name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand all of the documents listed above. I understand the requirements of the class and the expectations of me, and I agree to fulfill these. I have reviewed the grading policies of this class and understand that participation in FFA activities and maintaining an SAE/Record Book will have an effect on my grade. If I have any questions, I will ask Mr. McDermott for further explanations.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Parent/Guardian Agreement

I have read the documents listed above and understand that my student is to keep a section of their binder containing all work they do for this course. I understand that my student will be responsible for abiding by the general rules and class guidelines. I have also read and understand the grading policies for this class (including the percentages of the student’s grade that will be devoted to FFA and SAE/Record Books). If I have any questions or would like to discuss my student’s performance in the class, I will contact Mr. McDermott by email (jmmcdermott@fjuhsd.org) or by phone at 562-266-5080. Also, please check out our program website at https://lahabraffa.wixsite.com/lahabraffa for more info.

**Please check this box that you have read and agree to all items included in the La Habra FFA Chapter Program of Activities for the 2023-24 school year.**

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any comments/questions on the handouts listed above?

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Phone number where you can be contacted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_