**Honor/Standard Credit Selection Form for BSCS Biology**

In order to take this biology course for honor credit, you must indicate the appropriate selection on the form provided, *even if you are currently enrolled for honors credit*. By doing so, you are agreeing to meet the requirements listed below. We expect all students to work hard and contribute actively to the class. As an honor credit student, you will be expected to work more independently and to complete a number of additional assignments that could include:

1. **News article summaries:** In a section of your 3-ring binder, you will keep biology-related articles found in reputable newspapers (e.g. New York Times, Boston Globe) or news magazines (e.g. Newsweek, TIME, etc.). These articles could be assigned as often as biweekly, but will be assigned at least once per unit. You will collect and read a relevant article, summarize it, discuss its relevance to your life, and apply what you’ve learned in class to the article. You may also be asked to present these articles to the class from time to time.
2. **Genome**: You will be given a copy of the book Genome: An Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters by Matt Ridley along with a sheet of questions to answer. Each unit you may be assigned one chapter of this book to read (sometimes you will have a choice of chapters) and you will be expected to answer the questions that go along with that chapter.
3. **Internet-based assignments**: Although all students will be encouraged to participate, it will be mandatory for honor students to take part in one internet-based assignment. Details and websites for these assignments will be provided.
4. **Other miscellaneous work**: In addition to the requirements listed thus far, you may also, from time to time, be asked to complete other miscellaneous assignments. These include honors projects, *Challenge* sections from the BSCS A Human Approach textbook, extension assessments from the Biology textbook (Miller & Levine) and/ or extra questions on tests or labs. Honor credit students should expect to answer all lab questions in depth, using outside references where appropriate. (You will be given instructions from your teacher for these assignments.) You may be called upon to verbally summarize the learning objectives at the end of class.

Some of you may decide to take this course for honor credit and realize later that the extra workload is too much to bear. If this occurs, you will be allowed to change over to standard credit. In order to do so, you must make your request in writing with an Add/Drop Form with all the required signatures. Keep in mind that you will not be permitted to re-elect honor status. The deadline for doing so is near the end of November; please be sure to find out the exact deadline should you consider this option.

**ALL STUDENTS** must indicate his/her selection on the form below, detach it, and return it to your teacher by Thursday, September 19th , 2013. Regardless of your selection, the form must be signed by you and your parent/guardian. If you choose to take the course for honor credit, you must also have your guidance counselor and previous science teacher sign the form.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read the above requirements for taking BSCS biology for honor credit and have indicated my selection below.

* I am choosing to take BSCS Biology for honor credit. I agree to meet these requirements to the best of my ability. I understand that if I so choose I may later in the year withdraw from honor status, and that I will be restricted from changing my status again for the remainder of the year.
* I am choosing to maintain my standard status in BSCS Biology. I understand that I will not have another opportunity to elect honor status.

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Student Signature date Parent/Guardian’s signature date

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Previous science teacher’s signature date