



Exciting things are happening with Biotechnology at San Dieguito Academy.

Biotech classes begin this school year!

San Dieguito Academy is offering three classes this school year as part of our new biotechnology program. The first is Healthcare Essentials, taught by Leslie Gushwa in collaboration with Scripps Healthcare, Encinitas. This course is designed to introduce students to the many career opportunities in the field, including biotechnology.

In the spring, two sections of Introduction to Biotechnology will be offered with seventy seven students enrolled. Jocelyn Broemmelsiek will teach this exciting, hands-on course.

Staff training: Our dedicated teachers continue to expand their knowledge in the field of biotechnology. Russ Davidson, our teacher of Chemistry for Biotechnology, spent a stimulating summer at the Life Science Summer Institute, run by BIOCOM and Miramar College and held at Biogen IDEC. There he studied the Bruce Wallace Amgen curriculum and participated in a series of recombinant DNA labs. In addition, he toured ten biotech companies, including Invitrogen, Accumetrics, Biogen IDEC, Synomex, Genprobe, Genentech, Karl Strauss, and the Salk Institute. Jocelyn Broemmelsiek continued with her graduate work, taking courses this summer in Biochemistry and Cell Biology.

Industry partners assist SDA: Our biotech committee has worked hard to develop partnerships to help sustain this valuable but costly program. We are proud to announce that **Genentech** has generously donated almost \$20,000.00 in much-needed equipment and materials to the program. Genentech's John Keller and Joe Rubio assisted our teachers in selecting appropriate equipment and supplies. This includes two platform shakers, a precision lab balance, a water bath, large carboys, necessary glassware and plastic ware, and even stainless steel to be used by our metals program! Special thanks to our teachers who eagerly picked up the equipment from Genentech including Russ Davidson, Jocelyn Broemmelsiek, Mike Santos, Jason Berend, and Deb Abrahamson.

Biotech Committee meets with district level officials: Members of the SDA biotech committee were grateful to meet with Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Rick Schmitt and Director of Educational Services Stephen Levy to share plans for the growing biotech program. The district was anxious to learn about curriculum, student participation, community partners, fund-raising efforts, and plans for sustainability. The meeting included principal Mike Grove, assistant principals Jeanne Jones and Don Rizzi, science teachers Jocelyn Broemmelsiek, Mike Santos, Linda Hauck, and Department Chair Trish Hovey, internship teacher Neal Glasgow, math teacher Amy Johnson, and teacher on special assignment, Deb Abrahamson. The San Dieguito High School District is excited by the opportunities the biotech program at SDA will offer its students.

SDA staff attends Career Technical Education Conference this summer: Jocelyn Broemmelsiek, Deb Abrahamson, Jeanne Jones, Linda Hauck, and Amy Johnson attended the Health Capacity Building Grant conference this summer in San Diego. They were joined by Jean Kaput of Mira Costa College, who partners with the SDA biotech program. It was an excellent opportunity to continue planning for the coming school year.