

Living Environment: Course Requirements/Expectations/ Contract

School: The High School of Applied Communication (Q267)

Teachers: Mrs. E. Alcantara and Ms. J Cosentino Room: 559

Phone: (718) 389-3163

Regular Classes Period _____ Lab Period _____

Contact Information : (718)389-3163

What is Living Environment?

Living environment or **biology** is a science that studies the organization and interactions of **living things** in this world. In this course, you will learn how living things are able to keep themselves **alive**. You will learn many **new concepts** and **scientific vocabulary** in order to **understand** and **explain** the natural world around you. You will also gain many useful scientific skills such as: writing a lab report, performing experiments, scientific literacy, note-taking, organization of a sourcebook, scientific research and analyzing data.

What topics are we going to study?

Living environment will be broken down into **nine** different units.

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|--|---|
| 1. Science Inquiry | 6. Evolution |
| 2. Similarities and Differences
among Living Things | 7. Ecology |
| 3. Homeostasis (Dynamic
Equilibrium) | 8. How Humans affect the
Environment |
| 4. Genetics | 9. Laboratory Activities and
Skills |
| 5. Reproduction | |

What materials should I bring with me every day?

You are expected to have everything listed below:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • One 3 ring binder (2 inches or
thicker) | • Pencils and Pens |
| • A Homework Folder | • Colored Pencils |
| • Loose-leaf lined paper | • Calculator and ruler |

How long is this course?

This is a full year course that meets for **six** periods a week. Usually five periods will be for regular classes and one period will be devoted to laboratory experiments. At the end of spring semester (in June), you will be taking a **New York State Regent Examination** testing you on **everything** that you have learned this year. You need to **pass** this course with a **65% or over** and also score higher than a 65 in order to fulfill your **graduation** requirements.

What textbook will we be using?

- Glencoe Living Environment New York State Edition
- Prentice Hall: Brief Review for New York The Living Environment
- UPCO: Living Environment Workbook

How will my grade in Living Environment be calculated?

Your grade is determined through your **individual, group and class work**. You will have to be able to **explain** and **apply biological information** through **presentations, paragraphs, homework, quizzes, tests, projects and labs**. **Students are responsible for all work that is assigned and discussed in class even if you were absent that day**. The breakdown of your mark is based on weighted percentage categories:

- Assessments (exams, quizzes, tests) 30%
- Labs (Lab Reports, participation, safety, lab skills)..... 20%
- Projects , Class work, and Participation 20%
- Sourcebook..... 20%
- Homework..... 10%

What will be the laboratory requirements for this course?

Students must complete **all assigned lab write-ups** in order to be eligible for the Regents examination in living environment. **If a student does not participate and complete the lab write-up (questions and analysis) they will not be able to take the Regents examination. This is New York State Law and has to be followed.** All labs write-ups will be kept in a folder at school in order to prove that each student has completed the lab requirement for this course. If a student is absent for a lab activity, they are responsible to make-up (redo) the whole lab.

What happens if I'm sick on a lab day?

It is the student's responsibility to **find out** if they have a missed lab. It is also the student's responsibility to remember to **show up** for the lab make-up the **following week** of the missed day. **LABS WILL NOT BE MADE UP DURING CLASS TIME FOR ANY REASON.** **LAB MAKE-UP is scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during period 3 in Rm. 559. Please make separate arrangements with me if you have a class during that period.**

******* Students with incomplete labs will get a call home to explain to their parents why they will not be passing living environment*******

Expectations

To be successful in Living Environment class, an environment of respect and responsibility is extremely important. Your participation mark is based on your individual contribution to the class. Being able to co-operate, communicate and listen within a group are real life skills that need to be used in this class. Your opinions and ideas are important and you

deserve to be heard as long as you are thoughtful, on-task and respectful. You are now in high school and expected to conduct yourself in a mature fashion, and to under and adhere to the following rules:

- It is essential that you attend class daily and that you arrive on time. Class begins at the bell, and at that time you are expected to be at your seat with your materials ready.
- If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and make it up.
- It is expected that you be respectful of yourself, your classmates, and your teacher at all times by actively listening and refraining from any negative comments, teasing or criticism. **Foul or inappropriate language will NOT be tolerated.**
- Academic integrity is expected of you at all times. Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious offenses and will be dealt with according to the N.Y.C. Discipline Code.
- Electronics of any kind are not allowed in school or in class. Such items will be confiscated.
- No food or drink is allowed in the classroom
- All other school rules will apply in this classroom.

I encourage any student who needs help to let me know so that we can sort out any problems before they become catastrophes. In addition, I hope parents or guardians will feel free to contact me at HSAC to discuss any aspect of your child's progress.

*Please sign the following contract and have the contract read and signed by your parent/guardian. It must be returned tomorrow and will count as a homework assignment.

STUDENT CONTRACT

I, _____(name), have read, understood, and will adhere to the course requirements for Living Environment.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent /Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____

Contact Information: Phone # _____ Email: _____