

Living Environment

Mr. Hutchinson

20012/2013

This course will prepare you for the New York State Living Environment June 2012 Regents exam. We will explore many interesting topics, including, but not limited to:

- The scientific method
- Biology laboratory procedures and techniques
- Biochemistry
- Life processes: Nutrition, Respiration, Excretion, Growth, Reproduction, Regulation, Transport, Synthesis
- Prokaryotic and Eukaryotic Cells
- Human biology (including DNA & genetics)
- Evolution
- Ecology

Conduct:

We respect you our students and give our best effort. In return, we expect the same from each of you. Appropriate behavior includes:

1. Your being on time and prepared to learn each and every day. To us, this means the following: Be in your seat, with your book and notebook open, pen in hand, and homework on the corner of the table when the bell rings. (Cultivate your own “inner bell”!) **If you are not seated when the bell rings you are considered late.**
2. Once class has begun, raise your hand when you have a question or something to add to the class discussion. We welcome your active participation, as long as it is relevant to the topic under discussion!
3. **No food or drink** allowed in the classroom. This is a laboratory. Such actions are against the safety rules. Water is the exception. No glass containers please.

Grading:

40% tests, 30% quizzes, 20% labs, 10% homework.

There will be a mid-term exam (covers 1st & 2nd quarter material).

The Regents’ exam counts as a “final” exam.

Adding the 4-quarter averages plus your Regents’ score and dividing by 5 gives your average for the course. In essence, the Regents exam counts as a “5th quarter.

Homework:

Wow! You begin each quarter with a 100% (A+) HW average! It's up to you to keep it. Just do the HW. If you don't have it (all of it) when it's assigned, -5 points goes in the grade book. Bring it in one day late and you "buy back" 2.5 points. **If I come around to check homework, please don't waste our time or distract the class by trying to explain why it's not done or only partially done – speak to me after class.** Homework must be on separate loose-leaf paper. It may be typed. It must have your **name, date, period** and **assignment** in the top right corner of the page. Please DO NOT WRITE YOUR HOMEWORK ON THE SAME PAGE AS YOUR CLASS NOTES.

Extra credit:

One or two extra credit assignments will be offered per quarter. These assignments usually add to a quiz grade related to the assignment.

Notebook:

A 1.5 inch (minimum) 3 ring binder with loose-leaf paper is required. Use it for science only please.

Put the date in the upper right corner of each day's notes and handouts will be helpful to you and me. Keep them in chronological order. This will come in handy when you have to study or have a notebook check.

Review your notes each day if no other homework is given. A clever student will look at their notes before class begins each day. This is a form of study and will help prepare the student for questions at the beginning of class.

Extra Help

Extra help class is offered every Tuesday after school. I will be here until 3:30 if no one is present. If there are students present it is possible to extend the extra help session. Please use extra help to clarify your knowledge. It is not a personal teaching session. It is used to make up labs, quizzes, tests, and to clear up any misunderstanding. Please make an effort to understand the concept before attending extra help. This makes the process more efficient and allows more students to be helped.