



Living Environment with Mr. Murphy
2022 – 2023
smurphy@alcsny.org – 375-6600 ext 2248



Course Description

Biology is the study of all things pertaining to life. General biology topics that will be covered in Living Environment will be including, but not limited to: Ecology, Cellular Biology, Genetics, and Human Body Systems. The content of this course will be covered in a variety of formats based on inquiry and hands on learning. There is also a Laboratory component to this course. The intention of this course is to give the student a better understanding and appreciation for the life sciences as well as help each student develop inquiry skills that allow them to think scientifically.

Student Expectations (Mr. Murphy's base expectations across all classes)

Respect	Responsibility	Honesty
<p>Treat others the way you would like to be treated. If your actions would make someone else's day worse, don't do it, as you wouldn't want it done to you.</p> <p>As your teacher, I'm here to help you grow as an individual and a learner. Respect will go both ways between us, as I will strive to keep your respect.</p> <p>You have it in you to always reach the next level; respect and believe in yourself!</p>	<p>Show up and be on time. Complete the work that is given to you. It is designed to help you as an individual and learn more about the world around you.</p> <p>Follow through with projects and work; especially if you are doing it with a partner.</p> <p>Completing your work on time and with integrity is satisfying in its own regard; it proves you have it in you to be a great individual in terms of responsibility!</p>	<p>DON'T CHEAT; it will only come to make your life more difficult later. When you cheat you don't learn!</p> <p>I will not lie to you in order to build trust. If you lie to me, the trust will be gone, and we will need to rebuild it again.</p> <p>Trust goes a long way and is a great characteristic for others to rely on in you.</p>



Student Expectations (Decided Upon by Students)

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- **these will be added by the students after a beginning of the year class wide discussion**
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A Shared Learning Environment

Please respect the learning environment of other students. We will recreate a “scientific community” within my classroom; and just like a community that folks live in, we want to respect each other and our shared space. Clean up after yourself. Mind your language and behavior. Assist others if you have the capacity to do so and ask questions when needed. Please help us preserve a positive classroom environment.

CLASSWORK & ASSIGNMENTS	<p>Students will be assigned homework regularly. Homework is meant to reinforce the material being learned in class. Homework may consist of practice, finishing unfinished class work, working on class projects, reading or studying. All homework is due on the assigned date. If an assignment is not completed by the assigned date a grade of <u>ZERO</u> will be recorded for that assignment <u>until that assignment is complete</u>. (Extenuating circumstances will be given exceptions after discussion with the teacher)</p> <p>Late homework can be turned in within 5 school of when the assignment was graded for 10% grade penalty</p>
EXAMS & ASSESSMENTS	<p>Tests, quizzes, or performative assessments will be given to assess student’s knowledge of each concept or topic that is studied over no more than a two-week period. If a student pays attention, does their homework, and participates in labs; they will have practiced all of the concepts, for an exam, multiple times before the test</p> <p>Be sure to ask questions & Seek Help <u>BEFORE</u> the exam. DO the <u>REVIEWS</u> and <u>STUDY!</u></p>
LABORATORY	<p>ALL STUDENTS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE THE REGENTS EXAM IN JUNE. New York State mandates that to sit for the Regents Exam each student receive a minimum of 1200 minutes of laboratory activities and submit satisfactory reports for each lab exercise that is completed.</p>
ATTENDANCE & MAKE-UP WORK	<p>It is the expectation that students aim for perfect attendance. However, I understand some days are missed. If a student is absent, it is <u>their responsibility</u> to see the teacher or email/chat for make-up work. Makeup work must be completed by the date the teacher assigns after meeting with the teacher.</p>

Grading Policy

The grading system in this class will be based on a point system. Each item of work will be worth a predetermined number of points. All points will be summed to receive a total number of points possible and earned. Each area of work will then be weighted accordingly to receive a final percentage. Quarter grades will be determined as follows:

Quarter Grade Determination		Course Grade Determination	
Tests & Quizzes & Assessments	50 %	Quarter 1	20 %
Class-work & Assignments	30 %	Quarter 2	20 %
Laboratory Exercises	20 %	Quarter 3	20 %
		Quarter 4	20 %
		Regents Exam (Final)	20 %

Classroom Management

As the teacher, it is my job and responsivity to maintain a safe and supportive environment in which all students feel welcome and can learn. In order to maintain this environment, disrespectful and disruptive behavior will have zero tolerance. Consequences will occur for students who actively disrupt the classroom environment by not following the expectations. The following steps will be used for classroom disruptions:

1. Warning followed by a personal discussion if needed.
2. Teacher detention with parent or guardian contacted and informed.
3. Discipline referral to office with parent or guardian contacted and informed

*If the offense is deemed severe enough, immediate referral to the office can be made

*The teacher, parents/guardians, and students should all familiarize themselves with the student handbook

Teaching Philosophy

It is my belief everyone has a right to learn while simultaneously growing as an individual and a community member. I strive to create a classroom environment that encourages critical thinking, self-growth, and development of becoming an informed citizen. I aim to provide the knowledge and resources required for a student to grow individually, and I hope that every student reaches their full potential. Please encourage all students to do the best they can – no matter the content or activity.

Course Outline

The following is an outline of the topics that we will cover throughout the year. The teacher retains the right to change it at any time to adapt the needs of the class or work with changing circumstances. (Ex; COVID)

Semester 1	Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Characteristics of Living Things - Nutrients, Energy, and Biochemical Processes - Homeostasis in Human Body Systems - Disease and Disruption of Homeostasis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparative Reproduction - Genetics, Biotech, and Decision-Making - Ecosystems and Invasive Species - Climate Change and Human Impact: Extinction vs. Evolution

Course Materials

The majority of the course materials (Assignments, readings, and data sets) will be handed out on paper during class. Teams will be used as a class resource tool. All course materials such as Lecture Notes, Help guides, and Study Resources will be uploaded onto our Teams Page under the Class Files Folder. Many of the classwork exercises will require you to access Teams and download the necessary files for the work in class.

The only materials I ask that be provided by the student is;

- 1. A composition notebook**
- 2. A 3-ring binder**

I encourage the students to re-use these rather than buy new. We have many 3-ring binders at the school that can be re-used and many students have composition notebooks that they wrote very little in. Let us focus on re-using materials rather than buying new!

I will strive and do my best to keep you aware of your child's progress during the year. Please complete the information on the next page so that I may contact you.

Please detach and sign the final page to be returned to Mr. Murphy

*Parents: Feel free to contact me at school, by email or by phone, at any time concerning your child's progress in my class. I am always willing to answer your questions or hear your concerns. *Parent conferences are welcomed!*

Parent- Student-Teacher Contract:

Please review the above syllabus, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.
Please Sign below acknowledging that you have read the syllabus and fully understand the course expectations

Print Name of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date: _____

Print Name of Student



Signature of student

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name:

Phone Number(s):

Email:



As a teacher of your child, I will strive to give them the best possible learning environment in my classroom. I welcome regular communication with parents about the progress of their child in Earth Science. To make this more efficient please complete the following information above. All information will be confidential and used only by Mr. Murphy to maintain communication with you throughout the year.

Use the line below to provide Any special information I should know about your child. *Please Print Clearly.*

