

LIVING ENVIRONMENT SYLLABUS 2023-2024



Mr. Westlund
bwestlund@alcsny.org
375-6600 ext 2248

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Biology is the study of all things pertaining to life. Students taking Living Environment will be introduced to the basic topics of biology including, but not limited to: Ecology, Biochemistry, Cellular Biology, Genetics, Evolution 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

RESPECT

Respect Your Peers:
consider your words
and actions carefully –
keep them kind.

Respect Your Teachers:
I'm here to help you.

Respect Yourself:
Don't settle for less...
Only you can push
yourself all the way to
success.

RESPONSIBILITY

Be on time to class! Be
prepared with all
materials every day.
Complete and turn in
your work ON TIME.

Only YOU are
responsible for you and
your work!!!

PRESENCE

SHOW UP! You can't
learn when you are not
here. Also, be present
in MIND, don't day-
dream. PARTICIPATE in
class, ask questions so
you may learn.
Your presence will
greatly affect your
learning.

HONESTY

DON'T CHEAT, it
will only HURT
YOU! This
includes sharing
answers online!

DO NOT LIE!
If someone cannot
trust your word, there
is nothing else that can
be trusted either.

**NO CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS! IF I SEE YOU USING YOUR
CELL PHONE IT WILL BE TAKEN AWAY!**

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

It is my belief that each student should be awarded the same opportunity to succeed as any other student. It is my job to provide each student with the knowledge and resources they need to succeed in this course, and to encourage each student to reach their full potential. However, students will only be successful if they put forth the effort and participate fully in the classroom activities each day. I will always be fair, but fair doesn't always mean you getting what you want.



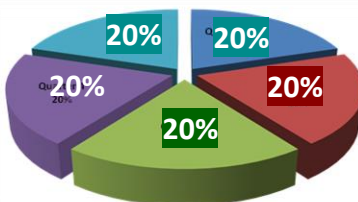
COURSE WORK

CLASSWORK & ASSIGNMENTS	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>. Late work will be accepted but only for half credit!
EXAMS QUIZZES	Exams will be given to assess student's knowledge of each concept or topic. Students will be given notice at least 2 days before an exam. Exams will be mostly multiple choice. Quizzes will be given periodically and students will be given no notice. POP!!! Always be ready! Be sure to ask questions & Seek Help <u>BEFORE</u> the exam. DO the <u>REVIEWS</u> and <u>STUDY!</u>
LABORATORY	As of now, ALL STUDENTS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE THE REGENTS EXAM IN JUNE. New York State mandates that to sit for the Regents Exam each student completes all lab activities and submit satisfactory reports for each lab exercise that is completed. Failure to meet the lab requirement will make the student ineligible to sit for the regents exam!
ATTENDANCE & MAKE-UP WORK	It is the expectation that students strive for perfect attendance. If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to see the teacher or email for make-up work. Makeup work must be completed by the end of the marking period.

GRADING POLICY

Course Grade Determination

Quarter 1	20 %
Quarter 2	20 %
Quarter 3	20 %
Quarter 4	20 %
Regents Exam (Final)	20 %



MORE ABOUT GRADES

Students will receive one grade for each marking period in biology. This grade will be based on 2/3 class grade, and 1/3 lab grade. At the end of the year each of the 4 quarter grades, along with your regent's exam grade will be averaged to give you your final grade.

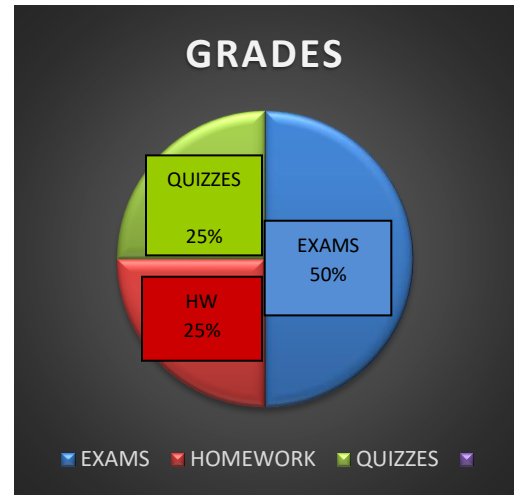
Class grade will be calculated as such:

50% EXAMS

25% QUIZZES

25% HOMEWORK

Lab grade will be based on lab report grades as well as work inside of the lab.



Tests: Students will always be given notice at least 2 days before a test.

If you are not happy and you would like to raise your grade, you may schedule a "correction meeting". During a correction meeting you must answer questions from the test verbally. Depending on how well you answer the questions, I will award up to 1/2 of the percent you lost. I.E. You received a 40% on a test. You answered all the questions correctly during the correction meeting, you get 30% back (1/2 of 60%-the points you lost) Your grade would now be a 70%.

Quizzes will not always be announced. They will be a way for me to see if you are doing your reading or paying attention during lecture. They will always be graded.

Homework will be given on most days, but will usually be short.

Normally, homework will not be given on Friday

Extra credit will be given sparingly upon your request

Participation will count in your favor.

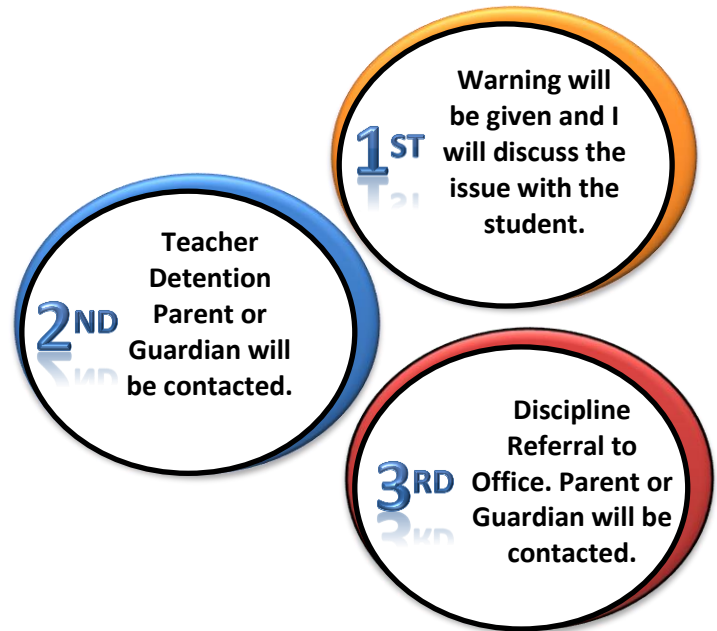
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO PUT IN THE EFFORT, THERE IS NO REASON THAT YOU CANNOT SUCCEED IN BIOLOGY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

It is my job, as a teacher, to maintain an environment in which all students can learn comfortably. Therefore, disruptive, inappropriate, and disrespectful behaviors ***WILL NOT*** be tolerated. Should a student fail to meet one of the above expectations, there will be consequences.

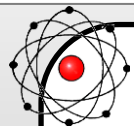
***Should a first or second offense be deemed severe enough by the teacher, immediate referral to the office will be made.**

***The student and parent/ guardian should be familiar with all school policies and guidelines as stated in the student handbook.**



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 without notice.



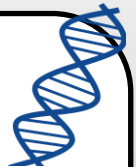
Semester 1

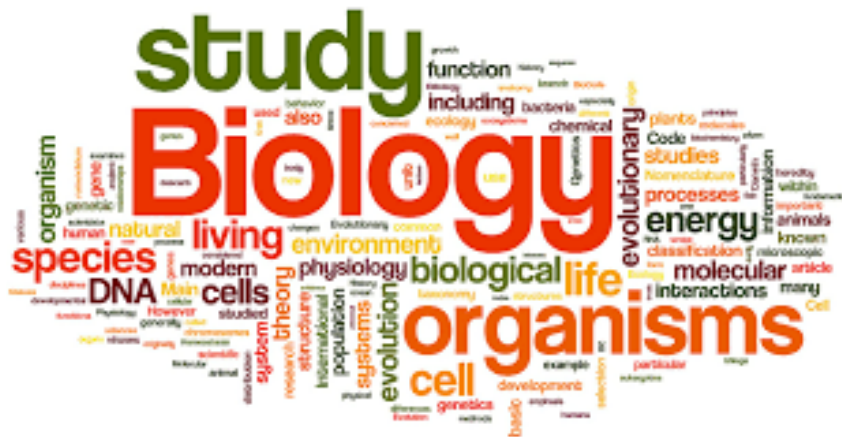
- What is Biology & Scientific Method
- Chemistry of Life
- Macromolecules & Enzymes
- Cell Structures
- Cell Transport & Energy
- Cell Growth and Reproduction



Semester 2

- Mendelian Genetics & Heredity
- Molecular Genetics – DNA to Proteins
- Evolution
- Principles of Ecology
- Human body systems
- Regents Review





Please remove this page from the syllabus and return to Mr. Westlund. THANK YOU!

PARENT/GUARDIAN Contact Information

Please Print

I will strive to keep you aware of your child's progress, in my class, throughout the year. Please complete the information below so that I may contact you easily.

Student's Name: _____



Check Box

I have read and understand the expectations, for my son or daughter, in Mr. Westlund's Living Environment Class.

Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) Name: _____

Phone Number(s): _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ , _____

*Parents: Feel free to contact me, 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!