



City Honors School

Living Environment 2009 -2010

Ms. Marciniak Room 166

Email: Kamarciniak@buffaloschools.org

OVERVIEW

This course follows the New York State Regents course of study. It involves the study of living things from the molecular level to communities. Special attention is also given to the areas of biochemistry, ecology and reproduction and development. This course is a prerequisite for AP/IB Biology and, therefore, provides an appreciation for the fundamental principles of biology in order to develop a solid foundation for higher-level science courses.

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives include developing an understanding for scientific concepts, principles, and theories as well as learning how to apply this information independently in order to further advance the students understanding for the natural world around them. The course is also designed to develop higher level and critical thinking skills in order to provide students with the tools needed to understand science and to create more educational independence.

REGENTS LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Critical to understanding science concepts is the use of scientific inquiry to develop explanations of natural phenomena. Therefore, as a prerequisite for admission to the Regents examination in the Living Environment, students must have successfully completed **1200 minutes** of laboratory experience.

COURSE OUTLINE

First Marking Period

Study of Life – The Scientific Process
Biochemistry
Cell Structure, Function & Transport
Cells & Energy: Photosynthesis & Cellular Respiration
Cell Division: Mitosis

Second Marking Period

Human Body Systems & Homeostasis
Skeletal System
Digestive & Excretory Systems
Respiratory & Circulatory Systems
Nervous & Endocrine Systems
Immune System & Disease

Third Marking Period Human Reproduction
Meiosis
Embryology
Genetics
DNA & Protein Synthesis
Biotechnology

Fourth Marking Period Evolution
Classification
Ecology
Human Impact on the Environment
Review for Regents Exam (remaining time)

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework will consist of reading, finishing class work, studying notes, research, and written assignments and is given daily. Late assignments **will not** be accepted, with the exception of a legal absence. If a student is absent from class, it is their responsibility to get the assignment(s) missed and complete it by an agreed upon date. One project will be assigned each marking period. Late projects will be penalized 10% each day late.

GRADING POLICY

There will be a test at the end of each major unit of study. If a student is absent the day of an exam, the exam must be made up the next day, or at a time and date agreed upon by the student and teacher. Grading is based on a total point system. Students lab grade is incorporated into their class grade.

MATERIALS

- 1 ½ inch binder
- Dividers
- Pens and pencils
- White lined paper
- Ruler
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighter

METHODS OF COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Parents are always welcome to meet with me at school by appointment. My contact information is as follows:

Phone: 816-3130

Email: kamarciniak@buffaloschools.org

EXTRA HELP OPPORTUNITIES

Students are welcome to set up an appointment to stay after school if extra help is needed or work needs to be completed due to an absence.

Please have your parent(s)/guardians read the course syllabus, sign on the space provided below and fill in the parent contact information.

I am looking forward to a rewarding and rigorous year. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

K. Marciniak

By signing below you agree that you have read through the course syllabus and understand what is expected in order to succeed in The Living Environment.

Date _____

Student signature _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION

This information will be used to contact you with reports of your student's progress in my class. Please print.

Student name: _____

Parent/Guardian names: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Home phone number: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Preferred form of communication: Email or Phone

Further notes/comments: _____

