



## **The Living Environment City Honors School Ms. K. A. Hyla**

Welcome to the Living Environment or Biology! This course is designed to give you a basic understanding in each of the following areas of Biology: The organization of living things; How living things depend upon nonliving things to survive; Reproduction and Development; Genetics; Evolution; Energy use at the molecular and cellular levels; How organisms depend on each other and their physical environment; and Human interactions with organisms and the physical environment. A separate laboratory class is required and the student must complete 1200 minutes of lab work to be eligible to take the June Regents Exam.

### **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT:**

Students will be able to understand, interpret and apply scientific problem solving methods along with inquiry-based skills to novel situations.

### **COURSE TOPICS:**

- Course overview: Gathering, processing, and recording data (September)
- Cells (September)
- Cells and Energy (October)
- Human Anatomy and Physiology (October-November)
- Reproduction, Meiosis and Embryology (December)
- Genetics (January-February)
- Evolution (March)
- Ecology (April-May)
- Human Impact on the Environment (May)
- Review (June)

### **NYS STANDARDS:**

- Standard 1: Analysis, Inquiry, and Design
  - Students will use mathematical analysis, scientific inquiry, and engineering design, as appropriate, to pose questions, seek answers, and develop solutions
- Standard 2: Information systems
  - Students will access, generate, process, and transfer information using appropriate technologies.
- Standard 4: Science
  - Students will understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to the physical setting and the living environment and recognize the historical development of ideas in science.
- Standard 6: Interconnectedness
  - Students will understand the relationships and common themes that connect mathematics, science, and technology and apply the themes to these and other areas of learning.
- Standard 7: Interdisciplinary Problem Solving
  - Students will apply the knowledge and thinking skills of mathematics, science, and technology to address real-life problems and make informed decisions.

**COURSE GOALS:** Biology demands that you exhibit at least a modest amount of curiosity regarding the living world around you. The goals are:

- To provide a foundational introductory knowledge of human development, structure and function.
- To relate the study of Biology with other various fields of study and life.
- To show how living things interact with one another and are ultimately interdependent.
- To show how living things interact with the environment and how it is affected.

**MATERIALS:** The following materials need to be purchased by the student for the class:

- 1 Binder (1 1/2 inch)
- 5 Dividers
- Lined notebook paper
- Pens and Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Ruler
- Highlighter
- Review Book (more information to follow)

**TEXTBOOK:** The Living Environment, by Stephen Nowicki

**EXPECTATIONS:** The students will:

- Be on time to class
- Be prepared with all materials listed above.
- Complete ALL assignments on time.

**HOMEWORK:** Homework will be given almost every day, either as a written assignment or as daily review of the current material being covered. Late work will not be accepted, except for excused absences. It is the students' responsibility to get the missed assignments and complete them by an agreed upon date if they had a legal absence. If the student was absent, he/she will have 3 days after returning to school to complete the assignment, after 3 days it will be a zero.

**MISSED TESTS/QUIZZES:** These assignments will need to be completed after school by an agreed upon date within 5 days. After 5 days, the score will be a zero.

**GRADING POLICY:** A total point system will be used to calculate grades. At the beginning of each quarter a "grade keeping" sheet will be distributed to students so they can keep track of their grades and their current averages. Parents are encouraged to view this sheet every once in a while.

**EXTRA-HELP:** Available after school on most days or by appointment.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If any problem arises or you would like to check on your student's progress you can call or e-mail me.

Telephone: 816-3130 ext. 1154

Email: [khyla@buffaloschools.org](mailto:khyla@buffaloschools.org)

I am looking forward to having a great year! Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

K. A. Hyla

Please sign and return by September 11, 2009

**I understand the requirements, expectations and policies for the Living Environment class. I agree to abide by these and do my best in class to have a successful year.**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**As a parent/guardian of the student taking Living Environment, I will encourage him/her to follow the policies and expectations for the class. I also understand the requirements my child must meet.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_