



City Honors School

Living Environment Lab 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 and biomes. Special attention is also given to the areas of biochemistry, ecology and reproduction and development. All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Living Environment Regents Examination upon satisfactorily completing the written laboratory requirement for this course. All students must complete **1200 minutes** of lab work over the course of the school year.

COURSE OUTLINE

Students will complete hands on labs, which are directly related to the material taught in their Living Environment class. New York State requires that students complete four labs written by the state. One state lab will be completed each marking period in addition to other labs. These four labs are as follows:

1. Diffusion Across a Membrane
2. Making Connections
3. Relationships and Biodiversity
4. The Beaks of Finches

Each State lab fits into the Living Environment curriculum during specific units of study. Questions related to these four labs are asked on the last portion of the Regents Exam. Therefore, students must master these four labs prior to taking the Regents Exam in June. Time permitting we will review these four labs at the end of the school year.

SAMPLE LABS

- Writing and conducting an experiment
- Components & use of a compound light microscope
- Examining macroorganisms using a dissecting microscope
- Making wet mount slides
- Genetic disorders: Karyotyping
- Running a gel electrophoresis
- Dissection

GRADING POLICY

Your grade is determined by the completion of labs, lab folder checks and quiz/test grades. Each lab is assigned a point value based on the length of the lab. **Late labs will be penalized with a 10% point deduction each day late.** Once a lab is passed back, I will no longer accept that lab and the student receives a zero. Students can expect a lab folder check once each marking period. ALL labs are to be accounted for and kept in your lab folder inside the classroom. **NEVER REMOVE YOUR LAB FOLDER FROM THE CLASSROOM!**

All students are responsible for keeping track of their lab progress on their record sheets. Lab minutes will be posted in class on a regular basis. If students need to make up missing labs they must make arrangements to stay after school. **Lab is extremely important and therefore, your grade in lab will be incorporated into your class grade for the Living Environment.**

LABORATORY PARTNERS/GROUPS

Throughout the year, students will participate in a variety of labs that will require them to work individually, with a partner or in a group. The teacher will determine partners and group mates. Each student is always responsible for his or her own work.

LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS

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 (including state labs) with satisfactory written reports for each laboratory investigation.

MATERIALS

- Pencils
- Lab folder
- Ruler
- White lined paper
- Graph paper
- Colored pencils
- Calculator

METHODS OF COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

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

Phone: 816-3130

Email: kamarciniak@buffaloschools.org

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 Lab.

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: _____

