

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Biology: The Living Environment Course Information

Mrs. Doepp



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### Supplies:

- ✓ 3-Ring Binder with Loose Leaf Paper OR Folder & Notebook
- ✓ Dividers (For binder only if you are sharing with another subject)
- ✓ Ruler (Metric)
- ✓ Charged Chromebook and headphones
- ✓ Pens & Pencils

### Grading Policy

Because this is a high school-level class, it is important to note that your overall grade for the course will appear on your high school transcript and remain with you throughout the remainder of your school career. This grade will consist of each of the four quarter grades you receive, as well as your Regents Exam grade. Each quarter will make up 22% of your overall grade, while your Regents grade will account for the remaining 12%.

Each quarter will consist of the following:

- **Homework, Preparation & Participation 10%**- You must be on time everyday and ready to work. This includes being prepared with whatever assignments, items, readings, etc. are needed for class. All students must actively participate in class discussions and group/ partner activities.
- **Lab Work 30%**- In order to learn some of the skills that biologists use, we will be completing many labs. Labs might include some kind of written report, data sheet, and/or questions. Additionally, students must complete 1200 minutes of labs to be eligible to sit for the Regents Exam at the end of the year. There are 4 state required lab reports. These must be completed by every student.
- **Summative Assessments (Tests and Projects) 60%**- On tests & quizzes, you will be asked to show your understanding of content rather than just memorization of facts. Additionally, you might be asked to use the material you have learned to complete several projects throughout the course.

### Assignments

All work is due at the beginning of the class period on the due date. Many assignments will be submitted through Google Classroom. Any work not submitted on time (even if you are absent) will be marked as "missing" in the grade portal that way you can see what you missed. Once the work is submitted, the "missing" grade in the portal will be updated to reflect the score you received on the assignment (minus points for being late if applicable).

## **Digital Tools**

We will use a variety of digital tools in this class including Google Suite, Gizmos, Kami, Nearpod, EdPuzzle, Flipgrid, and other interactive tools. **Make sure to always use your district-issued Chromebook to complete your assignments.**

## **Communication**

Everyday you should check the class stream in Google Classroom. Your teacher will post important reminders for the entire class or sometimes directly write you a message. (Don't worry, if your teacher writes you a personal message on the "stream", no one else can see it.) **Make sure you leave the "notifications" for Google Classroom on.** Additionally, you should check your district-issued email account on a regular basis.

Once you submit an assignment, you should check back for a grade and teacher feedback. Comments written on your tests, labs, docs, slides, etc. by your teacher are to help you understand content better or to see where you might have made a mistake. **Reading this feedback is probably the most important thing you can do in this class.**

If you need to contact your teacher outside of class time, please use email. I will check my email on a regular basis throughout the school day. If you write outside of school hours, please wait until the next school day to get a reply.

## **Late Policy**

Unless you have a valid reason, assignments need to be submitted on time and **will lose 10% each day that the assignment is late.** If a student is absent from school, s/he should meet with the teacher upon returning to make a plan to make up any missing assignments. Late assignments will receive a 10% reduction in points per day. Homework assignments that are checked/gone over in class will not be accepted late.

## **Extra Help**

If you do not understand some material or have been absent, please come for extra help. Extra help will be available during period 7 lunch. You must sign-up for extra help in advance so the teacher knows you plan to attend.

## Unit Outline: The Living Environment (Order of units might change)

### Scientific Inquiry/Characteristics of Living Organisms

#### Biochemistry

- Organic compounds and their structure
- Function of organic compounds
- Molecular models
- Chemical bonding

#### Homeostasis in Organisms

- Homeostasis and Disease
- Positive and Negative Feedback
- Diffusion/Osmosis
- Respiration/Photosynthesis

#### Characteristics of Living Things

- Characteristics of life
- Cell: the basic structure of life/cell functions
- Comparing single-celled and multicellular organisms

#### Genetics and Biotechnology

- Mendel Overview
- DNA/RNA
- Protein Synthesis
- Diseases
- Mutations
- Bioengineering

#### Origin of Life and Evolution

- Darwin and Natural Selection
- Scheme of Classification
- Patterns of Change

#### Body Systems/Reproduction & Development

- Meiosis and Mitosis
- Reproductive Systems
- Immune System
- Fertilization
- Human Reproduction and Development

#### Ecology

- Relationships
- Interactions
- Populations
- Energy Flow
- Diversity Benefits Species and Habitats

#### Human Influence on the Environment

- Positive Influences
- Negative Influences
- Climate Change