



Honors Living Environment Course Description

Welcome to our Living Environment class! I look forward to serving as your science teacher, studying together the fascinating truths about the world. This course is designed to challenge high achieving, self-motivated, and academically responsible students. The class will require more reading material, literary research on scientific topics, and greater depth and pace of content. All projects will be extensive and challenging. Topics you will learn about include the science of life, biochemistry, cell biology, cell reproduction, genetics, human systems, evolution, and ecology.

Why Study Science?

This course is intended to prove that science does have relevance in your life! It is hoped that your educational experience will inspire you to seek further education and employment in science-related fields.

Even for those who do not plan to pursue science-related careers, knowing science facts and principles can make your life safer, healthier, and more enjoyable. Science knowledge can protect you from misleading advertisements, questionable theories, diseases, and dangerous organisms.

Overall, as future citizens, you will gain the knowledge needed to discuss and make informed decisions on issues in science that will impact your daily lives and the society you belong to.

How to Be Successful

This class requires dedication and effort towards assignments and study time. You will get out of this class only what you are willing to put into it! Several important expectations for behavior are outlined here.

- **Be Responsible!** You must be responsible for your own actions and accept the consequences for your actions. If you are absent, you will be responsible to find out what you missed and hand in work that was due when you were not in class.
- **Be Respectful!** Treat others like you would like to be treated. Listen when others are talking and follow directions the first time they are given. Raise your hand to be recognized and respond to questions.
- **Be on Time!** You will be expected to be in your seat when the bell rings. Students will be dismissed at the end of class by the teacher, not the bell.
- **Be Prepared!** Each day you should come with your required materials and any other assigned materials for that day.
- **Be Safe!** While working in a laboratory environment, you must give your full attention to your activities, experiments and other students. This means no food or drinks are allowed in the classroom during activities and experiments.

Classroom Management

Absent

- It is the student's responsibility to obtain all make-up assignments upon their return to class. This can be arranged with the teacher after class or after school. It CAN NOT be done prior to class. Students will be given sufficient time to complete the work as arranged by the teacher.

Lateness

- All unexcused lateness must get a pass from the attendance office and sign in on the late attendance sheet in class.
- Repeated unexcused lateness to class will result in a detention(s).

Cutting

- Cutting class will not be excused for any reason.
- You will receive a zero for class participation, any assignment, quiz, and/or exam for that day. No make-up will be allowed.

Cheating, plagiarism, and allowing others to copy work

- Will receive a zero for that exam or assignment with parent notified.

Failure to obey reasonable request of staff

- Failure to obey instructions will result in detention(s). E.g. put cell phone, iPod away

**** All policy and procedure rules will be followed as outlined in the Code of Conduct handbook with parent notified.**

Units of Study

1 st & 2 nd Quarter	3 rd & 4 th Quarter
Scientific Method & Graphing Life Processes & Characteristics of Life Basic Chemistry Biochemistry/Organic Compounds Plant & Animal Cells Cell Transport Photosynthesis/Cellular Respiration Human Body Systems	Continue Human Body Systems Asexual Reproduction/Mitosis Meiosis/Human Reproduction/Dev. Genetics/ Biotechnology Classification Theory of Evolution Ecology Human Impact on the Environment

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Gain a thorough knowledge of the fundamental terminology, concepts, and processes of living systems.
- Work independently and in cooperative groups to enhance their understanding of biological principles.
- Acquire appropriate knowledge of basic laboratory skills for scientific activities and investigations.
- Demonstrate ability to gather, record, and interpret data from laboratory findings.
- Gain experience in seeking information from various resources (texts, journals, magazines, newspapers) to develop awareness about social concerns and the advancement of science-related issues.
- Develop an appreciation for the diversity of nature and organisms.

Required Materials

Lecture Text:

Miller, K. R., & Levine, J. (2004). *Biology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Lab Text:

None. Handouts will be provided.

Recommended Student Materials:

- (1) 2" or 3" 3 Ring Binder
- Dividers for binder (Make sections in binder for: Handouts, Notes, H.W.)
- (1) Pack of Colored markers and crayons (Leave at home to work on projects)
- Pens (black or blue), Pencils, and (1) Highlighter

Grading Policy

Make every effort to take tests on the scheduled test day. Reading required textbook readings prior to class discussion will help you better achieve success in the different grading assessments outlined below.

Tests = 55%

Quizzes = 25%

Labs = 10%

Participation/Homework = 10%

Projects = 1 test grade or 1 quiz grade

All students for paired and grouped projects are expected to contribute equally in the assignments. The teacher should be notified before the due date of the project(s) if any student has concerns when working with their group.

Other Assessments Throughout the Year

***Grading calculations are reviewed yearly by administration**

- Pre and Post baselines
- Benchmarks (Midterms)
- Regents exams

Tests, Quizzes, and Projects (80% of quarterly grade)

- All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Most exams will have a second section with short answer questions.
- Quizzes may or may not be announced.
- Projects may be individual, paired, or grouped (3-4).

Class Participation & Homework (10%)

- Homework assignments will be checked in a variety of ways such as spot checks, collection, discussion, or as a quiz. Grading for HW: 2pts-full credit for 100% completion, 1pt.-½ credit for 50% completion, 0 pts.- more than ½ incomplete.
- Homework assignments are designed to reinforce learning material and prepare you to successfully understand the next area of study. Homework will be written on the board. **No credit** will be given for late homework.
- Absent students are responsible for completing missed HW and will be given time to complete assignments. Students **MUST** show teacher completed HW to receive full HW credit within 1 week from the day student was absent. Failure to show the completed HW will result in a 0 for that HW assignment.
- Class participation is considered to be actively participating in class work and discussions.

Lab (10%)

This class is designed as an investigative course to offer students a variety of “hands on” experiences. The laboratory activities will include the practical application of scientific concepts to reinforce lecture objectives.

- Admission to the New York State Regents exam in June is contingent upon satisfactory completion of 1200 minutes of laboratory work. Therefore, attendance is critical to meet this requirement.
- The 1200 minutes of laboratory work includes 4 mandated NYS labs (each worth 135 minutes) and many additional labs to make-up the remaining lab minutes.
- Lab periods are scheduled once every 4 letter days.
- Full laboratory credit are earned when labs are complete and handed in on time. Two grading rubrics will be provided for you.
- All laboratory reports are due **two** days after the lab day unless otherwise specified by the teacher. Late labs will receive a 20 point penalty (e.g. 100-20= 80%) and then graded. Labs received the week prior to the closing of a marking period will be graded and then receive a 50% point penalty. Labs not received during the assigned quarter will receive a **zero** for that lab. If any lab is received after the assigned quarter, it will **only** be accepted for Regents credit as minutes.
- Absent students must make-up the lab either by completing the lab with another class or staying after school with the teacher in order to receive full credit.
- There will be a **check point** prior to the end of each quarter (2 weeks before the quarter ends) to ensure that all students are up-to-date with the required NYS lab work. Student names will be posted in the classroom at this time, indicated on the progress reports sent home each quarter till completed, and/or verbally informed.
- All graded labs will remain in a locked file cabinet in the classroom. Students are encouraged to check their grades with the teacher so improvement can be made as needed. This can be done before school starts or after school. Students are responsible to arrange an appointment with the teacher.

Help Sessions

I will be available after school by appointment. It will be your responsibility to schedule an appointment with the teacher. Recommendations for extra help will be advised on the progress report/report cards.

Availability Hours:

- ~ **Parents** may contact me via school email with any concerns throughout the year.
- ~ **Lecture review or practice test-taking skills** - written on the board 2-3 days in advance for after school help. Days will vary.
- ~ **Laboratory make-up** - a specific unit lunch day will be written on the board as the designated period to make-up labs.

(tear off bottom & return)

I, _____ (student) & _____ (parent/guardian) have read and understand the student expectations, grading policy, and homework policy for Mrs. DeBiase's class for the 2016-2017 school year.

Signature (student) _____ Date _____

Signature (parent) _____ Date _____

Parent email _____

Parent contact phone number _____