

## THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT – MR. LANCE JOHNSON

Sept 2022

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OFFICE PHONE: 845/298-5100 X 31069

COURSE WEIGHT: 1.00

PREREQ.: COMPLETION OF SCIENCE 8 & MATH 8

TEXT: *P.H. BIOLOGY-N.Y.S. ED.*

COURSE NO.: S441

CREDITS: 1.00

The Living Environment (L.E.) Regents course is an academically rigorous course in biology – the study of living organisms. This course expands on the previous Regents Biology curriculum, as it also places a great deal of importance on the application of biological knowledge to *living systems* – the study of ecology. Students will be expected to apply prior scientific knowledge, where appropriate, as well as general study skills. In addition, students will further develop a variety of laboratory techniques during their course of study this year.

Every week, we will have either 7 or 8 periods of L.E., including laboratory sessions. There is a statewide Regents requirement of **1200 minutes** of satisfactorily completed lab assignments, and as such, labs are a fundamental part of this course. **Students must have completed all labs by the end of May!!** – or they may not be permitted to take the Regents exam, which is necessary for graduation. Students will be expected to monitor their completed labs, and will be informed on *at least* a biweekly basis of their lab completions; students may not be permitted to sit for quizzes or tests if there are incomplete lab assignments.

We will be utilizing Google Classroom as a Learning Management System this year; assignments and schedules will be posted there, and some assignments will be collected there, as well.

### COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

1. Learn about cells, organisms, and living systems;
2. Prepare for the Living Environment examination;
3. Further develop note-taking, organizational, and study skills;
4. Develop and improve upon laboratory techniques.

### GRADING:

I will be utilizing a “total points” grading system, in which different materials have different point values and the grade is based on: the total number of points earned/total number of possible points. For this reason, the proportion of lab/homework points may change somewhat from quarter to quarter. For the sake of approximation, the point breakdown is usually:

- 60% Tests and quizzes (expect approximately one per week)
- 40% Laboratory assignments/Homework (expect between 1-3 assignments per week)/Projects  
Classroom participation, behavior, & attendance

### MATERIALS:

At a minimum, to be successful students must have a 3-ring binder **dedicated to biology**, as well as a pen, pencil and paper. At times, we will need to utilize graph paper and calculators, and a dollar-store calculator will suffice. In addition, students may wish to have an assignment pad, a ruler (for drawing), and possibly colored pencils.

### GENERAL COMMENTS:

1. To be successful in this course, good attendance is mandatory. Attendance problems will be addressed through parental notification, school administrators, and the Science Coordinator, as needed. Opportunities to make up missed work will only be available for *legal* absences!! Please also note that there are nine periods of biology for every 6-day cycle, and there will be a corresponding workload, accordingly.
2. Students are expected to be on-time for every class, and appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken if tardiness or attendance issues affect class performance.
3. Students are expected to be courteous and respectful to their classmates and the teacher at all times; this includes no use of foul or inappropriate language, not talking without raising one's hand and not interrupting classmates or the teacher, being in one's seat when the bell rings, etc.
4. Preparation for each day's work is vital; have any text materials read before class.
5. A valuable study aid for biology is to study for at least 10-15 minutes every night, so that you can *learn* the material and not simply *memorize* for the test. This will be discussed in class, as well.

### PARENTS:

Please indicate that you agree with and understand these comments, by signing below. I also request that you include both daytime and evening phone numbers, in the event that I need to contact you. Please feel free to also include any comments you might have for me, on the bottom or reverse of this sheet. I look forward to a fun and successful year of Biology!

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Signature (Mom)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Signature (Dad)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Day phone no.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evening phone no.

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Day phone no.

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Evening phone no.

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