

Living Environment

Course Syllabus 2016-2017

P-TECH

Teacher – E. Crowley

Course Description

Living Environment explores information about living things, how they function, and how they interact. Unit topics include Similarities and Differences among Living Things, Homeostasis in Organisms, Genetics, Reproduction and Development, Evolution, Ecology, Human Impact on the Environment, and Inquiry and Experimental Design. Students are expected to be proficient in these topics for the end of the course Living Environment Regents Exam

Material Requirements

- **3-ring binder brought to class daily** – One binder dedicated to Living Environment is **required**.
- **Pen, pencil, highlighter and lined paper**
- **Readings, articles, and videos as assigned**

Attendance

- **Regular attendance is expected** – Please review the school attendance policy if you are unsure of student expectations. Material that is discussed or presented in class will appear on tests, quizzes, and class assignments. Therefore, your attendance directly impacts your grade.
- **Make-up Work / Extra Help** – It is the responsibility of the student to request missed work and complete it within the time negotiated with the teacher dependent upon the length of absence. Extra help is available by appointment.

Grading

- **Tests and Quizzes** - Unit tests are representative of the final exam. They are comprised of multiple choice, short answer, and diagram interpretation questions. Quizzes are shorter and may be made up of one or many modes of assessment.
- **Class Participation** – A student's Participation grade is based on effort in completion of work, positive contributions to discussions and activities, and preparation for class. Chronic absenteeism, lack of preparation, or behavior that interrupts the academic process of self and others will negatively impact this grade.
- **Labs** – A minimum of 1200 minutes of Laboratory Experience is required by NYSED in order for a student to be able to take the Regents Exam in Living Environment in June. Parents will be notified regularly of student progress towards this minimum requirement.
- **Homework** – Homework assignments are given on a regular basis with a specific due date. Assignments should be submitted at the **beginning** of class on the **due date**. Failure to do so results in a **reduced** grade. **No excuses will be accepted**. If you are **absent** on the day an assignment is due, it is **your responsibility** to turn in the assignment at the beginning of class the day you return to school. Failure to do so results in a **reduced** grade.
 - **Note:** chapter readings, chapter notes and lab reports are considered homework.
 - Internet activities and/or readings are considered part of your homework. If you have difficulty with Internet access at home, you may access it from school, or your local public library.
 - Although you may not receive written assignments on a nightly basis, you are expected to **review your notes nightly** (10 to 15 minutes).

Living Environment – Mrs. Crowley

Class Expectations, Rules, and Procedures

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

The expectations, rules, procedures and consequences of my classroom are intended to keep the classroom environment safe, orderly, and productive. Please respect the rules so that we can maximize our learning time together. If you have any questions about any of these expectations, rules, and procedures, or why they are in place, you have the right to find out – please ask me as soon as possible. There should never be a rule that does not have a purpose! Thank you for your cooperation!

1. Respect yourself and others

- Show respect for yourself and others at all times in words and in actions.
- Respect others' property. Avoid touching or writing on anything that does not belong to you (including desks, textbooks, walls, chalkboard, etc.). Don't expect that others will clean-up your materials. Please pick-up after yourself.
- Respect yourself and the rest of us by using appropriate language and wearing appropriate clothing.
- Be a kind person.

2. Put forth your best effort at all times

- Always do your best work.
- Put quality and learning ahead of just getting it done.

3. Be prepared for class each day

- A class binder containing all necessary materials and handouts
- Looseleaf paper, pens, and pencils
- Highlighters for emphasizing important text

4. Follow directions when given

- When directions are given, do your best to follow them the first time. If you are confused or have questions, ask. I would rather have you stop class to clarify than be off task while everyone else is working.

5. Pay attention, participate and ask questions

- Engage in what is going on in the classroom. If you have a question, ask it! Otherwise, I might not know until the test that you didn't understand something. There are no stupid questions, and chances are, if you are wondering about it, someone else in the class is too. Be proactive about your learning and don't be afraid to ask for help. If you feel most comfortable waiting until after class, that is okay, too, but do keep communication open between us.

6. Preserve a positive learning environment

- Student actions that interfere with teaching or learning in the classroom will NOT be tolerated.
- Use class time to learn. Please do not spend your time grooming, sleeping, talking, writing notes, or doing work for other classes.
- Minimize classroom interruptions by arriving to class on time and not leaving the classroom during class unless it is absolutely necessary (I understand emergencies happen occasionally).

CLASS RULES

1. No food or drink, except water

- You may drink bottled of water in the classroom. If a spill occurs, please clean it up immediately and inform the teacher.
- No other food or beverage is permitted without a doctor's note. This is standard Laboratory Protocol and is to ensure the safety of all students.

2. Arrive to class on time & ready to learn

- When the bell rings, you are sitting in your assigned seat.
- You immediately begin on the warm up activity or journal entry.
- You are “physically” and “mentally” present in the classroom

3. I dismiss you, not the bell.

- Remain in your seat or at your station until I have dismissed you.

4. Use polite and appropriate language

- In order to have a safe classroom environment where all students feel comfortable, no put downs, swear words, or slang words with demeaning connotations will be accepted. Remember, if you don't have something nice to say, don't say it at all!

CLASS PROCEDURES

1. Turn in homework to the proper bin

- Homework is due at the beginning of class. I will not accept work completed once class begins. Turn in your homework to your class bin. Turn absent/late work into the absent/late work bin with the provided note filled out.

3. Sign the tardy book & attach pass.

- You are expected to sign in if you arrive to class after the bell has rung and sign out if you leave class before the end of the period. Be sure to note on the sign in sheet whether you have a pass. If you do, attach it to the sign in sheet.
- Excessive tardies will affect your class participation grade and have other consequences, such as detentions, etc

4. Pick up after yourself before you leave

- Take all of your belongings, pick up any scrap papers around you, return lab equipment and put your desk back in place before you leave each day.

5. General Classroom procedures

- If you need to leave your seat to throw away trash, sharpen pencils, or other activities that do not have to happen immediately, please do so during independent work time. Less disruption during instructional time means more time for you to learn, experiment, and work with your classmates.
- If you need to leave the class for any reason, you must have a pass from your teacher. Please take care of this before class starts or during independent work time, including notifying your teacher that you have a pass for that class period.
- Raise your hand to be acknowledged or to ask or answer a question.

6. Get missed work from Daily Work bin then ask the teacher

- Attendance is essential for optimal learning. Being on time and present and class physically and mentally will be part of your overall grade. You may not be excused from my class by another teacher without first seeking my permission –this includes Band and music lessons.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain any missed classwork. Begin by looking for missed handouts in the Daily Work bin pertaining to your class. Follow-up with the teacher before or after class, or during independent work time.
- Make arrangements to take quizzes and tests immediately. It is your responsibility to make these arrangements, I will not track you down. If you do not make-up assignments in a timely manner (agreed upon by you and me per the RCSD guidelines for legal absences), you will earn a “zero” on the quiz or test.
- UNEXCUSED absences on the day of an assignment, test, quiz, project, presentation, paper, etc. will result in a zero.

CLASS CONSEQUENCES

- 1. Verbal warning**
- 2. Call home**
- 3. Detention**
- 4. Referral to assistant principal**

* Serious offenses can, at the teacher’s discretion, result in more severe consequences regardless of previous steps taken.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please read the attached information with your student. You will find included the Living Environment (LE) Course Syllabus, Classroom Rules, Expectations and Procedures, and Student information sheets. As stated in the section of the syllabus on Laboratory Minutes;

“A minimum of 1200 minutes of successfully completed Laboratory Experience is required by NYSED in order for a student to be able to take the Regents Exam in Living Environment in June.”

I am asking that both you and your child sign below to show that you understand this requirement. I will update both you and your child via letters, phone calls, and comments on report cards regarding progress on Lab Minutes. If you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or Mr. Smith for clarification.

Sincerely,

Emily L. Crowley
Living Environment Teacher

Parent Signature

Student Signature

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