

# 2014-2015 Living Environment Course

**Teacher:** Ms. Khandhar, Mrs. Homan  
**Class:** Living Environment (Regents Biology)  
**Class Room:** 376, 378  
**E-mail:** [alpa\\_khandhar@bcasd.org](mailto:alpa_khandhar@bcasd.org) ; [rose\\_homan@bcasd.org](mailto:rose_homan@bcasd.org)

## **Course Description:**

The Living Environment is a first year introductory course that includes topics in ecology, the cell, biochemistry, energy, reproduction, genetics, evolution, and the human body systems. Emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of essential questions such as:

How can science and technology be used to better understand life processes?  
How do organisms interact with each other and their environment?  
How do living systems respond to change?

## **Final Assessment:**

The final assessment is the NYS Regents: Living Environment. This exam will be given in June. Part A and B consists of 50 multiple choice questions. Part C requires short answer responses based on information from diagrams, readings, and graphs. Part D has questions based on 4 state required labs that will be completed during the school year. There are a total of 35 points in Parts C and D. Final exams are group graded; the student's teacher is not allowed to grade any part the student's exam.

## **Grading Policies:**

Grades will be calculated based on a point system. Each assignment will be assigned a point value from 1-100. Tests will almost always be graded out of 100 points. Labs reports will be approximately 20 points and homework grades will range in point value depending on the length and importance of the assignment.

## **Lab Work:**

A DOUBLE PERIOD LAB is scheduled one day each cycle. Students are expected to observe all safety procedures in lab and complete 1200 minutes of lab work to satisfy NYS Regents requirements (i.e. any student who does not satisfy the lab requirement will not be eligible to take the final exam).

## **Classroom Expectations:**

Expectations ensure that we will work towards building a community which is motivating, safe, and collaborative and having the best learning experience possible.

- Come to class **ON TIME** and **PREPARED** to learn!
- Be respectful of your classmates, your teacher, the lab equipment, and yourself.
- Follow all lab safety procedures.
- Food will not be allowed in lab.
- Cell phone or other electronic devices use is not permitted according to school policy.
- Be **accountable** and **responsible** for your choices.

**Supplies Needed:**

1 or 1 1/2 inch 3-ring binder (for use ONLY in Bio class!). Bring it everyday  
Loose leaf paper  
colored pencils and highlighter can be used frequently (not required)

**Textbook:** Keep it where you do your homework – not needed in class  
***Biology: Principles and Explorations***  
by George B. Johnson and Peter H. Raven

**Resources:**

CastleLearning: [www.castlelearning.com](http://www.castlelearning.com)  
Regents Preparation: [www.regentsprep.org](http://www.regentsprep.org)  
Practice Regents Exams: [www.nysedregents.org](http://www.nysedregents.org)

**Course Outline:**1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Unit 1: Unity & Diversity  
Unit 2: Ecology  
Unit 3: Biochemistry  
Unit 4: The Cell  
Unit 5: Energy  
Unit 6: Mitosis/Meiosis

Midterm

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

Unit 7: Genetics, DNA & Biotechnology  
Unit 8: Evolution  
Unit 9: Human Body Systems

Review

Final Exam