The Living Environment

2014-2015



Ms. Sharkey

Rm. 317

sharkeye@greenville.k12.ny.us

Dear Living Environment Students,

I would like to welcome each of you back for the 2014 – 2015 school year. I am very excited about this year and look forward to an enjoyable and successful year. We will cover the material that is found in the Living Environment Core Curriculum and will also look to pay attention to literacy within the world of science. There are many topics to cover, which are listed on your units of study sheet, and this will require a team effort. Some of these topics may have been introduced to you in earlier science classes; however, we will study these topics in much greater detail than you have before.

 In order to successfully complete this course you will be required to complete and participate in all class and laboratory activities. Laboratory reports and questions will also be completed outside of class as needed in order to receive credit for the necessary laboratory hours. Homework must be completed in order to maintain an understanding of the material at hand and to help you assess yourself on your progress. Tests and quizzes will be given on a regular basis so that I can continually monitor and assess your progress.

 Beyond completing the course work, I expect that you will be both respectful and responsible at all times. You are expected to come prepared and ready to work once you enter the classroom each day. It is your responsibility to bring materials, complete assignments, and be prepared to work each and every class. You are also expected to be respectful of **ALL** things in the classroom. I would like to remind each of you that everyone has the privilege and right to learn and you should not interfere with someone else’s education at any time.

 In order to promote your success in this class I am **strongly suggesting** the following school supplies. These supplies will assist you in being organized and keeping track of all of your assignments.

**Supplies:**

1. 3-ring binder
2. Dividers for binder
3. Loose leaf paper
4. Pens (blue or black)
5. Pencils
6. Textbook (covered)

Dividers for your binder should be labeled as followed:

* Notes
* Labs
* Homework (Hmwk)
* Vocabulary (Vocab)
* Reference/Syllabus (Ref/Syl)

**Textbook:**

You will be assigned your own textbook for the year and you are responsible for your textbook. You may be asked to bring your textbook on occasion to class but you will be notified in advance. I would suggest keeping your textbook in the place that you are most likely to do your homework, whether that is at home or in school. You also must cover your book at the beginning of the year and keep it covered for the entire year.

**Homework:**

* Due at the beginning of the class period on the day it is due.
* **NO LATE HOMEWORK** will be accepted (\*There is always a time for an exception but this is at my discretion and will be utilized in a strict manner!)
* Missed assignments due to a legal absence are due the

 day after returning to school.

1. Students are responsible to pick up the work they have missed. Work will be set aside for you in the folder designated for your class at the front of the room. It is your job to check the folder and make sure you have not missed any other things.
2. Students who are absent because of vacations are responsible to pick up assignments **before** they leave and all work is due the day that they return.

**Quizzes and Tests:**

* + Quizzes and tests will be given on a regular basis so that assessment of progress is frequent.
	+ The material on the tests and quizzes will come from class discussions, homework, review sessions, textbook readings, and any other resource that may have been used throughout the course of a chapter or unit.
	+ If a student misses a quiz or a test the **STUDENT** is responsible for setting up a time with the teacher to make it up. (Lunch period, study hall, or an arranged after school time when possibile.)
	+ Missed quizzes and tests must be made up within **2** school days of the missed test or quiz.

**Laboratory Activities and Reports:**

* Laboratory activities and reports are a mandatory part of this class.
	1. Students must complete **30** laboratory credits (1200 min) during the year.
1. Each credit is equal to 40 minutes of hands-on

 laboratory activities.

3. If a student does not complete at least **30**

 laboratory credits for the year they will not be

 allowed to take the Living Environment

 Regents Examination at the end of the year.

4. Failure to complete **30** laboratory credits will result

 in the failure of this class.

* Laboratory reports are to be completed on time.
1. If lab reports are not completed because of a legal absence the student is required to make up the lab after school within a week.
	* Often times the lab materials are living and if the labs are not made up in a timely fashion the materials will not be usable. Also, the laboratory activities reinforce the material for any unit and the student will be at a disadvantage without this knowledge.

2. Point deductions will be made to reports that are late. Labs will not be accepted more than 5 days late for a grade. However, labs may still be submitted for lab credit at my discretion.

* Laboratory reports are to be completed in black or blue ink.
	+ 1. The lab report will be returned to be redone if they are not completed in blue or black ink.
		2. There will be no lab credit until the lab is resubmitted and deductions will be made.
		3. **Exceptions:** graphs or drawings may be done in pencil.
* All questions are to be completed in complete sentences unless otherwise instructed. Deductions will be made if sentences are not completed as instructed.
* All questions must be completed neatly. Laboratory reports will be returned for resubmission and points will be deducted if the work is not legible.
* Laboratory reports must be satisfactorily completed (at least a **65%** must be earned) in order to earn the credits towards the required credits.
	1. There may be a possibility for resubmission, but this is at my discretion.
	2. Resubmission will only be allowed during the

quarter that the laboratory took place. **It is required to have at least 8 laboratory credits for each quarter so that the 30 credits will be met!!!**

* + Laboratory reports will be filed in laboratory folders and stored in the Biology room at all times. The laboratory folders are not to leave the room at any time. **Students will not receive credit for any laboratory report that is not in their designated file! If any laboratory report is lost, you are responsible for redoing the entire laboratory!**

**Grading:**

* Everything will receive either a numerical grade (0 – 100) or in some cases a √ **+, √ ,** or , **√ -** will be used.
* A point system will be used for determining a numerical grade. If an assignment is worth 10 points and a student receives 9 out of 10 then the student receives a 90%.

**Quarter Grades:**

* Each of your quarter grades will be calculated based on the following equation:

 Total points earned by student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ X 100

#  Total possible points

Example: 450 points / 500 possible points = 0.9

 0.9 x 100 = 90%

**Final Grade:**

* Your final grade is an average of:

The 4 quarter grades and the Living Environment Regents Exam

- The Regents Exam counts as your final for the course.

**Bonus Points:**

* Shark points will be given out for the following instances:

1. Class work, homework, quizzes, and tests that receive a grade of 90% or better.

1. Positive participation (teacher discretion)
	* Sharks are added up at the end of each marking period and added onto the total amount of points that the student has accumulated for the quarter. (Sharks must be saved and showed at the end of each quarter to the teacher. **It is the student’s responsibility to hold onto and keep track of his or her own sharks!)**

**After School Help:**

 One day each week a designated science teacher will run an after school help session. Each one of you is invited to stay for extra help during these sessions. This is also the time in which missed laboratory assignments will be expected to be made up.

I am willing to stay after school whenever a student desires. However, I do ask that you let me know in advance that you intend to stay after so that arrangements can be made. There may be circumstances when I will be unable to stay after school; however, 99% of the time I will be available for time after school. This is a great time to meet for extra help or to make up work that has been missed. **Do not be afraid to seek help outside of class time if you are having trouble with any of the material!**

**Extra Help during the School Day:**

 I am also available for extra help during the school day during my free periods. Please let me know when you would like to come in for help and we can set it up if I am available. I work cooperatively with Mrs. Finch who is also a Living Environment teacher. She is also available for assistance during her free periods by appointment.

**Helpful Websites:**

[**http://www.quia.com/pages/adyer2/page4**](http://www.quia.com/pages/adyer2/page4)

This website lists homework assignments, test dates; due dates for labs, and also provides review activities for test preparation.

[**www.regentsprep.org**](http://www.regentsprep.org)

This website offers review sections for each of the topics you will be responsible for throughout the year and also on the regent’s exam in June.

**Classroom Rules:**

All of the rules that are found in the Greenville Central School Handbook apply in this classroom. However, there are additional rules that must be followed in order to ensure your success and safety in this class.

**Students are expected to:**

1. Be in your seat and ready for class to begin when the bell rings. (3 late arrivals = 1 write up)
2. Bring all necessary materials to class. (You will not be allowed to go to your locker during class!)
3. Follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Not bring food or drink (except water) into the classroom. (No water can be consumed during laboratory work.) This is for your own safety.
5. Show RESPECT and KINDNESS to ALL (this includes classmates, teachers, visitors, animals and yourself) at ALL times. Rude or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated!

**Consequences:**

**Negative:**

1. Verbal Warning
2. Asked to stay after school with Ms. Sharkey
3. Notification of Parent or Guardian
4. Student will be written up and the administration

 will handle the consequences.

**\*The teacher retains the right to skip a step if the behavior is severe enough in nature.**

**Positive:**

 1. Shark Points

1. Review Games
2. Other (candy, etc.)

I look forward to a great year. I am very excited to have this opportunity to be your teacher and I am ready to make it the best year possible. This is going to take effort on all of our parts. I know I am ready and willing to give this year my all. Remember it is ultimately your responsibility to be a success in this class!

 Sincerely,

 Ms. Sharkey

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read the syllabus for The Living Environment Class with Ms. Sharkey. I understand all of my responsibilities. I am aware of all that is expected of me for the year. I agree to follow all rules of Greenville Central School Student Handbook and all of the rules that apply to this class as they are detailed in the course syllabus. I am aware of the consequences that I am subject to if any of these rules are violated.

(Student signature)

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**For parents:**

I have read and gone through all portions of the Course Syllabus for the Living Environment class that my son or daughter is enrolled in for the 2014 – 2015 school year. I also understand that I can contact Ms. Sharkey at any time for any question or concern at 966- 5070 or via email at sharkeye@greenville.k12.ny.us.

(Parent/Guardian signature)

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to be contacted via email I would appreciate it if you would include that below.

Email address:

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