

Ms. Sprinkle
8th Grade Science/Living Environment
Cesar E. Chavez School
September 5, 2024

Dear Students and Guardians,

I want to introduce myself and express my excitement about working with you this school year. My main goal is to have every student succeed in 8th Grade Life Science/Biology to the best of his/her/pronoun ability. We all must work together to reach this goal. Additional information about the class is provided in the syllabus below. Please read the syllabus and sign the detachable portion at the end of this note to indicate your understanding and support of the classroom system.

Our theme this year is inspired by the writing of author Bettina L. Love. Bettina Love states that, “Curriculum is one of the most powerful tools in education to teach all children that people like them and people from whom they are different are beautiful, powerful, and valuable, and so were their ancestors.” Through writing our **BIOlogies** on various life science/biology topics throughout the school year, it is my hope that students and the Cesar E. Chavez Family demonstrate respect in the learning environment.” Yolanda Sealy-Ruiz states that, “The Archaeology of the Self” like an archaeological dig, like a digging deep, like peeling back of layers is for us to think about how we are opened to other people’s stories, by knowing our own stories.” Our **STEAM** classroom community welcomes differences in individuals and families, as well as how we understand and explore the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics curricula in the classroom.

If you ever have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to call the school at (914) 376-8969. All assignments and information about the class will be posted to Schoology in Clever daily. Assignments will automatically lock after 2 days of posting. It is my expectation, that all assignments are written down OR printed and placed in the homework section of the student’s binder and uploaded to the school-wide platform in Clever/Schoology. Assignments will be checked daily in Clever/Schoology with feedback provided for suggested ways of improvement via revision and in Student Led Conference binders. I am looking forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Sprinkle
Life Science/Biology Teacher

Life Science/Biology Syllabus

EXPECTATIONS

1. **Be on time.**
2. **Be prepared:** with all materials and an open mind.
3. **Be respectful:** to others, yourself, and the classroom.
4. **Be productive:** stay on task and try your best.

SCHOOL POLICIES

All school wide policies will be enforced in this classroom. These include (but are not limited to) policies on uniforms, gum chewing, and use of electronics.

THERE MAY NOT BE ANY FOOD OR DRINKS IN THE CLASS/SCIENCE LABORATORY (Simulated Laboratory/Investigations Are In Progress On a Daily Basis).

COURSE TOPICS:

See the attached curriculum map.

GRADING RUBRIC

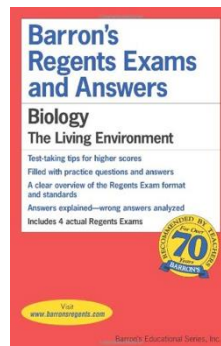
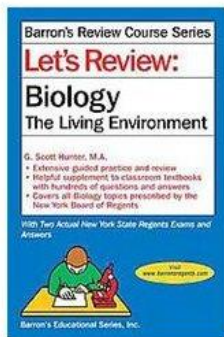
Tests/Quizzes 25%
Lab Reports/Projects/Makey-Makey & Scratch 20%
Homework 10%
Classwork/Participation 25%
Student Led Conference Electronic Binders 20%

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS

- 1 Notebook for Lab
- Folder
- Pen or Pencil
- Tape
- Large Binder with Loose-Leaf Paper for Student Led Conferences
- Scissors
- Glue
- Color Pencils/Markers
- Index Cards
- Tape
- Construction Paper
- Arts and Crafts Materials
- Hole Puncher
- White Lab Coat

CLASSROOM TEXTBOOK: HMH ONLINE AND VARIOUS STUDENT ACTIVITY WORKBOOKS FOR EACH TITLE

REGENTS PREP ASSIGNMENT: (Barnes & Nobles, OR Online)/Students that are not eligible to take the NYS Living Environment Regents Exam will complete the NYS 8th Grade Life Science/Biology Test.



POLICIES

Tests / Quizzes

Tests will be given at the end of each section. They will be comprised of multiple choice, interpreting diagrams, writing and short answer questions to prepare you for the 8th Grade Life Sciences/Biology- Living Environment Exam. Make-up tests are *only* allowed for excused absences. Short review assessments will be given to check for understanding throughout a unit. Open-book assessments will be allowed.

Projects

Projects are an alternative way to show your understanding of a topic. There will be a project assigned for each unit (about 1-2 per marking period). All projects must be submitted on time.

Lab/Investigation Reports

Labs are a fun, hands-on way to learn and observe science in action! Labs will be completed in your lab notebook. They will be graded for effort and accuracy. Please make sure that you are present for ALL labs/investigations because some of the lab data is based on whole class participation. Lab/investigations must be satisfactorily completed to sit for Regents Exams. Students will have 2 weeks only to make up incomplete labs/investigations once the lab session has concluded.

Homework

Homework is assigned **EVERY** night. Students must write down their homework in planners each day. Parents/Guardians should check their child's planner each night. While working on the "Do Now" please have your homework visible. I will either walk around the room to check it for completion or I will ask you to put it in the basket for grading. Each marking period, your lowest homework grade will be dropped. If you are absent, the missed homework assignment is due 1 day after you return. Posted assignments will be locked after 2 days. **UNEXCUSED LATE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!** It is imperative that homework is completed at home to avoid delays in moving forward with understanding of the content in the science classroom and for time management.

Class work

All work and activities done during class will be checked for completion, effort, and accuracy. Most work will be done in either your lab notebook or your Student Led Portfolio binders. You must have your lab notebook and Student Led Portfolio binders in class daily.

Participation

If you consistently ask questions, attempt to answer questions orally or in writing, remain on task, and follow the classroom expectations, then you will receive the full credit.

Electronic Binder Checks

Organization is an essential skill for any scientist. You must keep a lab notebook and portfolio binder via TEAMS. Your electronic binder will be monitored frequently for completion of assignments and understanding of content.

Tardiness

Unexcused tardiness is unacceptable. If you are not in class, you are unable to participate. If late, you must sign into the 'Late Notebook' located by the door. Fill in the chart with your name, the time you arrived in class, and indicate yes or no for a late pass. If you have a late pass, leave it in the pocket at the front of the notebook and I will check it at later.

Absences

As stated by school policy, you must attend classes in order to pass a course. If you are absent, copies of all handouts will be placed in the folder hanging on the wall labeled with your section number. When you return to class, ask a classmate what you missed and check the folder for a copy. All missed assignments are due 1 day after the absence. Please send an absence note with your child upon return.

Bathroom/Water

As stated by school policy, no bathroom passes will be allowed periods 1 or 9, or the first and last ten minutes of any period. Exits to the bathroom should not be excessive unless of a medical emergency or if there is a medical note on file with the school nurse. If you need to use the restroom, raise your hand and I will acknowledge you with a yes or no. You are allowed to use the restroom: simply get up, sign the pass, and leave the room. Bathroom trips should not exceed 4 minutes and should not be taken during critical learning time. Please be mindful of the number of students exiting the classroom to avoid disruption in the learning environment. ONLY one student at a time will be allowed out of the classroom at a time.

Dismissal

At all times the teacher will dismiss the students, not the bell! Please remain in your seats until we say you may leave. We will always give you a late pass to your next class if there is a need to hold you longer than 2 minutes.

CLASSROOM CULTURE

We will work hard to have a positive classroom environment. This classroom should be a space of collaboration and questioning, both important to learning science. In instances where that culture is disrupted, restorative circles will be held, and your parent/guardian might be contacted and invited as well as administration depending on the nature of the disturbance.

COMMUNICATION

Again, feel free to contact me via telephone at the school.

All assignments and information about the class will be posted in the child's "Student Led Conference Binder via Clever (Schoology)."

I have read the syllabus, received the school supply list, and understand the 8th grade science class policies for the upcoming school year 2022-2023.

Student name printed: _____

Student signature: _____

Guardian name printed: _____

Guardian signature: _____

Guardian relationship to student: _____

The best method of reaching the guardian is (please check one):

___ by email to the following email address: _____

___ by phone at the following #: _____

___ by text message at the following #: _____

The best time of day to be reached is (please check all that apply):

___ morning

___ afternoon

___ evening

Do you excess to the internet at home? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a working computer at home? Yes _____ No _____