

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CLASSROOM CONTRACT 2011-2012

Ms. C. Lightbourn - CLightbourn@schools.nyc.gov

Dr. S. McNeil - SMcneil@schools.nyc.gov

Mr. E. Quest- EQuest@schools.nyc.gov

Mr. L. Steele - LSteele6@schools.nyc.gov

SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

All students must complete three years of science in addition to one passing grade on a science Regents examination. A passing grade on a second Regents examination is required for an Advanced Regents Diploma. The first two years of science must be Regents sciences, one of which must be Living Environment.

SCIENCE COURSE OFFERING

EARTH SCIENCE will focus on the study of our planet, its changing systems and its setting within the universe. In particular, students study the geological processes on earth and their influence on nature and on humans. Students will also learn weather patterns and astronomy.

LIVING ENVIRONMENT is a one year biology course designed to prepare students to understand basic biological concepts including the similarities and differences among living organisms; homeostasis in organisms; genetics; reproduction and development; evolution; ecology; human impact on the environment; scientific inquiry and laboratory skills. This course follows the New York State Core Curriculum for Living Environment. All students are required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of 30 periods of laboratory class. Students are also required to take the Regents Examination.

CHEMISTRY investigates the study of energy and the interactions of particles which make up the physical properties of matter. Students learn to use symbols, formulas and numerical trends to study chemical reactions and the process of radioactive decay.

AP BIOLOGY is designed to help students develop a conceptual foundation and a deeper understanding of science as a process. The students are expected to be highly motivated in achieving their own academic success. The breakdown of this course is as follows: Molecules and Cells (25%) Heredity and Evolution (25%) and Organisms and Populations (50%).

FORENSICS (Fall Semester) focuses on the relationship between science and crimes. Students examine how the proliferation of scientific technology has impacted the criminal laboratories, autopsies, types and analysis of evidence. Students use a combination of textbooks, the internet, current news articles and media to prepare for class discussions.

MARINE BIOLOGY (Spring Semester) In Marine Biology, you will explore the amazing watery world and the life that calls the ocean home.

TEXT RESOURCES

- Living Environment: *The Living Environment*, Glencoe, Inc.
- Earth Science: *Earth Science The Physical Setting* Thomas McGuire
- Earth Science review book- Barron's Earth Science review book..2011
- Chemistry: *Chemistry*, Prentice Hall 2005
- AP Biology: *Biology*, Campbell and Reese, 6th edition
- *AP Biology Review Book*: Kaplan's AP Biology 2010 Edition
- Marine Biology: *Marine Biology*, McGraw Hill 4th Ed.
- *Forensics Text: Criminalistics*

GRADING

CLASSWORK:

10% of Grade

For AP Biology 15% of Grade

- All classwork, written or oral, completed in groups or individually is graded and contributes to the class participation grade.
- Written and oral classwork must be neat, thorough, include a proper FSSA heading and demonstrate significant effort in order to receive a satisfactory grade.
- Student must be prepared for class in terms of both subject and materials. (See supplies requirement).
- Punctuality and attendance have a significant impact on a student's classwork and grade.
- Classroom behavior—active participation, personal conduct, and contribution to the classroom environment also influence this grade.

EXAMS/ESSAYS/RESEARCH PAPERS/PROJECTS/QUIZZES:

see below % of Grade

- For Chemistry, Earth Science, Living Environment and Physics 60% of Grade
- For Forensics/Marine Biology 50% of Grade is for exams and 25% of Grade is for projects
- For AP Biology 45% of Grade

- Classroom tests are based upon the assigned homework, class discussion, and board notes, and should be seen as opportunities to reinforce and evaluate learning.
- There will be a final and a midterm exam as well as unit tests and quizzes
- If you are absent for an exam, you **must** submit a note from your parent/guardian the day that you return from your absence. **The test may not be taken until a note is submitted.**
- Students will be required to write research papers, projects, and essays during the semester and sometimes to present them to the class.

HOMEWORK:

15% of Grade

- Homework must be clear and neat in the *required format* (Student name, Title of Assignment, Date, Class Period, Teacher's and School's Name) and it must be written on 8 1/2" x 11" loose-leaf paper.
- Homework is assigned on a daily basis and must be submitted on the **date that it is due**.
- **Late homework will not be accepted** except in the case of illness or extenuating circumstance, in which case a note must be provided. Students will receive a one-day extension with an absence note if the homework was assigned during the student's absence.

LABS:

For Chemistry, Earth Science, and Living Environment 15% of grade

For AP Biology 25% of grade

- Regulation 8.2© of the Rules and Regulations of the NYState Commissioner of Education States: *Only those persons who have satisfactorily met the laboratory requirement as stated in the State Syllabus for science shall be admitted to a Regents examination in such science.*
- Students who do not complete the lab requirement of 30 periods of satisfactory lab work are barred from the Regents exam and **FAIL** the class.
- **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.** If you do not have the required number of labs by the end of the semester you will automatically fail.

SCIENCE LABORATORY ETIQUETTE

Follow Class Etiquette in addition to the items below:

1. During lab sessions, there will be no schoolbags, jackets, or other belongings on the floor or on the tables. A proper storage place is provided by your teacher.
2. Each student must follow all safety instructions when in the lab.
3. Lab folders and reports are **never allowed**, under any circumstances, to be taken home or out of the laboratory.

ABSENCES

- Three (3) latenesses result in a scheduled detention.
- *Regardless of reason for absence: sickness, family emergency, blackout, school trip, or performance, students are required to make up all work*
- An unexcused absence (cut) will result in a "0" for that day—class work as well as any exam or quiz scheduled for that day.
- A lateness of 20 minutes or more with-in any classroom period constitutes a cut.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

These policies exist to maximize learning and community spirit. Failure to follow them may result in disciplinary action and/or lower grades. They include *but are not limited to* the following guidelines:

1. Arrive on time and be ready to work when the bell rings.
2. Act respectfully to the teacher and to fellow students at all times.
3. Unless speaking quietly to your classmates in pairs or groups, raise your hand to speak. Do not call out.
4. Pay attention and follow directions quickly and quietly.
5. Take care of the classroom environment—clean and straighten up after all activities.
6. Obey all school rules and follow your teacher's instructions, in particular:
7. No eating or drinking (except bottled water) is permitted in the classroom.
8. Headwear (except religious) is prohibited. Clothing must be appropriate to school and follow expectations outlined in the annual school bulletin.
9. All electronic devices are not to be used or displayed in the classroom. *They will be confiscated as per Department of Education regulations.*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/ PLAGIARISM

Make sure you read the following and discuss the import of its contents: In signing the student contract you are acknowledging the following:

I understand that plagiarism is the act of submitting a paper that, in part or in whole, includes the work or another person— work that I did not create. This includes, but is not limited to, copying other words, images, sound bites, art work, ideas, phrases or paragraphs from another source/person without indicating precisely that these words or ideas come from a source other than myself. I understand the seriousness of this offense and in signing below I am stating that I will not plagiarize from other people or sources and will not allow others to plagiarize from my academic efforts. I understand that if I do submit plagiarized work, I will be held responsible and comply with disciplinary action set forth by the school administration and the Department of Education's discipline and intervention regulations.

PREPAREDNESS FOR CLASS

Parents: You can greatly influence your child's ability to succeed. Classroom misbehavior will not be tolerated, as it affects both the individual student's performance and the classroom environment, and will be treated accordingly.

Students: Students are required to be prepared for class every day. As students are frequently, absent from class due to performances and studio trips, it is essential for students to get the notes missed from a fellow student and to include it in the notebook. *Make sure you have the contact information for at least two other students in each of his/her class. The following supplies are highly recommended and should be brought to class every day:*

Supplies for Class

- 8 1/2" x 11" three-ring binder style notebook
- Graph Paper and Loose-leaf paper
- FSSA's daily planner (distributed in school)
- All handouts, returned quizzes, exams, class-work and homework assignments must be placed directly in this notebook until the end of the school year (June 2012)
- Two (2) folders one for class and one for labs.
- Three hole punch and a metric ruler
- 3 x 5 Index cards attached with rubber band or in zip lock bag
- Regents Review Book
- Highlighter and Mini-stapler
- A scientific calculator (not a graphing calculator)
- Black or blue ink (only) pens and pencils

You will find grades and assignments posted on PupilPath.com.

You may contact your teacher via email or via PupilPath.com.

Approved by Ms. Sofia Apostolidis
Assistant Principal of Instruction
saposto@schools.nyc.gov
718-361-9920 x 5314