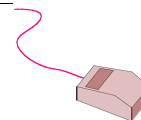




# High School for Environmental Studies

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Shirley H. Matthews, Principal

## CLASS AGREEMENT

Dear students and parents:

Welcome back to the spring semester of Living Environment. We will continue to use the Layered Curriculum model for each spring unit. The Layered Curriculum model is designed to build student understanding in the content area (Layer C) and then allow students to apply their new knowledge in real-world situations (Layers B and A). These assignments are aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards, which are geared towards ensuring all students are college and career ready. Students have many options for their assignments and students are responsible and accountable for their learning and grades. This curriculum is based on a point system and students must earn at least 650 points to earn a passing grade with a maximum of 1000 points for each unit.

It is our goal as your instructors to make this class as engaging and fun as possible, while ensuring that each one of you is ready to take (and ace ☺) the Regents examination that will take place in June. Because you **MUST** pass the Living Environment Regents to graduate from high school, we look forward to working with both students and parents so that we can all have a successful year. We have recently created a website for all course materials so feel free to explore our unit plans and pacing calendars at <http://bellino.weebly.com/living-environment.html>.

Please read through the following agreement in its entirety and discuss the items together. **The signature sheet attached at the very end of this document must be turned in by Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.** Through our combined effort in adhering to these guidelines, we genuinely hope that you will develop a passion for and an understanding of science that will carry you throughout the rest of high school and beyond.

We also wanted to let you know that this course is taught collaboratively to support all levels of students. To ensure the success of all students there are two teachers in the room at all times. Finally, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns at any point throughout the school year. Our contact information is listed below:

**Ms. Bellino**

Email: [msbellino@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:msbellino@schools.nyc.gov)

Phone: 212.262.8113 x 5060

**Ms. Bell**

Email: [ybell2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ybell2@schools.nyc.gov)

Phone: 212.262.8113 x 2960

Sincerely,

Ms. Bellino and Ms. Bell

## I. COURSE OVERVIEW

The Living Environment course is two semesters long and will cover these topics in the following sequence:



- UNIT 1: Scientific Method
- UNIT 2: Cell Structures
- UNIT 3: Cell Function
- UNIT 4: Homeostasis and Body Systems
- UNIT 5: Immune Response
- UNIT 6: Reproduction and Meiosis
- UNIT 7: Fertilization and Development
- UNIT 8: Genetics and Central Dogma
- UNIT 9: Biotechnology
- UNIT 10: Evolution
- UNIT 11: Ecology
- UNIT 12: Human Impacts

## II. GENERAL CLASS RULES

1. **BE RESPECTFUL OF...**
  - A. Your teachers: For you to get the most out of this class, paying attention to the instructors during class time is crucial.
  - B. Your peers: Each and every student in this classroom is entitled to his or her own opinions, ideas and questions.
  - C. Your school: You are not the only person that uses the classroom or materials. Please treat your classroom and any materials with the utmost respect.
2. **BE PROMPT.** You must be on time – every single day. If you are tardy without a pass, you will get a HALF CREDIT or a ZERO for the Do-Now Quiz. Several of these quizzes will affect your final grade.
3. **TAKE CARE OF ALL PERSONAL BUSINESS BEFORE CLASS.** If you need to use the restroom in the middle of class you can only go during your own time (layer time). Please raise your hand and ask for the pass.
4. **BE DILIGENT AND WORK START TO FINISH.** You are responsible for earning your points during each unit. Until you have completed all the layers and have 1000 points you should always have something to work on. Please use your time wisely.
5. **BE PREPARED EVERY SINGLE DAY.** Preparedness constitutes a large part of your class participation grade. In accordance with school rules, we will not let you leave the classroom to go get your materials during class.
6. **ASK QUESTIONS.** Each topic builds off of previous ones we have already covered. It is essential for you to understand all topics fully before we move on.
7. **RAISE YOUR HAND TO SPEAK.** Please raise your hand and wait to be called on.
8. **BE POLITE.** Profanity or otherwise inappropriate and offensive language and/or behavior will not be tolerated in this classroom.
9. **KEEP PROHIBITED ITEMS OUT OF MY SIGHT. NO CELL PHONES, IPODS, HATS, FOOD OR DRINK (BESIDES WATER). NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### III. CONSEQUENCES

If rules are broken, there will be strict consequences that will follow this general progression:

1. Verbal warning to and immediate loss of participation points
2. Student/Teacher conference outside of class
3. Phone call or email to parent/guardian
4. Dean or Guidance Counselor/Student/Teacher conference
5. Removal from my class

### IV. HONOR CODE

Cheating on exams, copying homework assignments from another student, lying, or plagiarizing work will invoke harsh consequences. **If caught committing any Honor Code violation, the student will receive a ZERO for the assignment and an immediate phone call home – NO EXCUSES.**

### V. PROCEDURES: A Day in the Life of a Living Environment Student

1. You will enter the classroom (on time).
2. You will pick up any handouts that he/she may need for the day.
3. You will pick up his/her binder.
4. You will take his/her seat quietly.
5. You will begin the Do-Now Quiz or other Do-Now activity. The Do-Now Quiz will almost always be focused around the topic discussed in class the previous day. You may use notes or the help of fellow classmates on the quiz. If you are on time to class you will get the full credit for the quiz. If you are late you will only receive half credit.
6. After the Do Now, you will either take notes from the Mini-Lesson or work on whichever layer activity you need to complete.
7. When you complete one layer activity, move on to the next one. Ms. Bell and Ms. Bellino will move around and talk about your work with you throughout the period.
8. Exams will always be on Wednesday's and there will always be a day of review prior to the exam and the opportunity to make test corrections after the exam.

### VI. MATERIALS

Everyone in this class is expected to have the following items for the school year.



1. A hard covered three-ring binder that is 1.5 inches or bigger.
2. Loose-leaf paper
3. Pencils
4. Blue or black pen
5. USB drive (2 gig) - optional

## VII. GRADE BREAKDOWN

### Assessments: 40%

- **TESTS**

- All tests are cumulative and will take place at the end of each unit. This means that material from any previous unit is fair game.
- If the student is absent on the day of a test, he/she **MUST** bring a note from home.
- The day after each exam, corrections can be completed to earn additional points.
- **All make-up exams must take place during your free period or after school. You cannot take use class time to make up an exam.**

- **QUIZZES**

- Aside from the daily Do-Now quizzes, there will be bigger quizzes every few weeks, both announced and unannounced.
- Certain quizzes will be open-note, so make sure to take good notes on a daily basis!

### Laboratory: 20%

- Labs enable students to gain hands-on experience regarding the concepts that the student is learning in class.
- **The final grade earned in the student's lab section will be factored in as 20% of his/her grade.**

### Classwork: 40%

- Mini-lessons or layered activities must be completed each day.
- All layered points are earned based on completion of your choice of activity and an objective reflection.
- Each unit has a pacing calendar so you can keep track of when all assignments are due.

## VIII. OUR GOALS

We expect that everyone in this class will reach the following goals by the end of the school year.

1. 70% of students will earn 800 or more points on each unit layer.
2. All students will be able to cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts by completing at least two Layer A activities.

**IX. SIGNATURES**

**Please discuss all components of this agreement and sign together.  
This is due by Friday, February 1, 2013 and will count as your first homework grade.**



**I have read and agree with all sections of pages 1-4 of Ms. Bellino and Ms. Bell's Living Environment Class Agreement.**

Name of Student (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian home phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian work phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian cell phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_