



# Dual Language Middle School

## 8th Grade Living Environment



### Instructors

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### Course Description:

This is an introductory biology course that follows the New York State Living Environment Standards. This course is specifically designed to broaden student understanding and interest in life sciences, while practicing their literacy and critical thinking skills. Students successfully completing the Living Environment sequence and the laboratory component will take the New York State Regents Exam. In order to sit for the Living Environment Exam, students will be expected to complete a **1200-minute mandatory laboratory component**. Students who pass the **Living Environment class AND** obtain a **satisfactory grade on the Regents exam** will receive high school credit for this course.

### Methodology:

The Living Environment science curriculum involves the study of living things and their relationships with their environment. This course has been designed to prepare students to explain, both accurately and with appropriate depth, the most important ideas about our living environment. Students, in attaining scientific literacy, ought to be able to generate such explanations, in their own words, by the time they graduate.

All students should have a basic foundation of scientific skills termed **scientific literacy**. A scientifically literate person has the capacity to:

- ✓ Understand, **experiment**, and **reason**, as well as explain basic scientific facts and their meanings.
- ✓ Ask, find, or determine answers to questions derived from curiosity about everyday experiences.
- ✓ Describe, explain, and predict **natural phenomena**.
- ✓ Read and understand articles about science; make **valid** conclusions based on scientific inquiry.
- ✓ Identify scientific issues underlying national and local decisions; express positions that are scientifically and technologically informed.
- ✓ Pose and evaluate **arguments** based on evidence and to apply conclusions from such arguments.

Living Environment Units of Study	
Unit	Title of Unit
1	Science Inquiry and Laboratory Skills
2	Ecology
3	Characteristics of Life
4	Human Body Systems
5	Reproduction & Development
6	Genetics and Biotechnology
7	Evolution
8	Human Impact
9	Review of Major Topics
10	Current Events

Student Grading Policy	
<b>Assessments</b> - Unit Exams, Quizzes and Labs	<b>40%</b>
<b>Classwork</b> - In class assignments, preparation for lab activities or other assessments, and exit tickets and reflections,	<b>50%</b>
<b>REACH</b> - active engagement in class discussions and/or activities, student preparedness, attendance to required meetings	<b>10%</b>

Student Grading Policy (Subject to Change)		
TRADITIONAL SCALE	MASTERY-BASED GRADE	PASS / FAIL EQUIVALENT
86 - 100	4	Exceeds Standards / Above Grade Level
76-85	3	Meet Standards / At Grade Level
66-75	2	Working Towards Grade Level
0 - 65	1	Needs Improvement
NS (No Credit/No Show)	n/a	Course in Progress

### New York State Laboratory Requirements

In conjunction with the daily lessons, the students are **required** to complete 1200 minutes of Living Environment Lab. Each student must **successfully complete** their labs as required by New York State in order to be eligible to attend the New York State Regents Exam for the Living Environment Setting.

It is crucial for each student to meet this **state mandated requirement**.

Those **NOT** meeting this Regents requirement will be deemed ineligible to take the New York State Living Environment Regents in June, 2022.

### Classroom Procedures/ Expectations

1. As a member of the DLMS community, you are expected to follow the REACH values:

**R** - Respect and Responsibility

**E** - Enthusiasm

**A** - Achievement

**C** - Citizenship

**H** - Hard Work

2. **Come to class on-time, every time. You are considered late if the class is already lined up and one of the teachers is addressing the class prior to entry.** If you might be running late, get a late pass, signed by the teacher or staff member you were with prior. Late entry into class without a pass will result in detention. **Repeated late arrivals** to class will negatively impact your class participation grade.

3. **Come to class prepared** with a pencil, pen, binder and workbook. If you are unprepared, you are still expected to complete all of the work during the period. Coming to class unprepared repeatedly will negatively impact your grade.

4. At the start of class, complete the **Do Now** and copy any **Homework Instructions**, into your planners.

5. **Place completed homework assignments at the center of your table** for collection at the start of class.

6. **Be accountable for your actions.** If you are redirected or receive constructive criticism, remember your personal and class goals.

7. **Be an active learner!** Engage in classroom discussions, state your opinions, and be prepared to be (respectfully) challenged by your peers.

8. **Be sure the volume of your voice is appropriate throughout the class period** - silent during direct instruction or when a classmate is speaking, moderate during group work, and minimal during independent work. This minimizes distractions to others and to yourself.

9. **Expect to work with different classmates when doing group work.** We want you to work with everyone by the end of the year.

10. **You are dismissed by the teacher(s) in the room, not the time on the clock.** Tables will be prompted to line up for dismissal when their materials are packed, the tables and floor are clear of papers or other materials, and everyone is seated silently.

## Assessments

- **Exams** will be announced at least a week in advance and will cover all of the standards addressed within the unit of study.
- **Quizzes** may be announced or unannounced.
- **Exit tickets** will be used to determine your level of understanding from the day's lesson and will be collected for a grade.
- ***It is your responsibility to schedule make ups if you are absent!***

## Labs and Projects

- **Students will be expected to complete 1200 minutes of laboratory work.**
- All lab assignments will be reviewed for making corrections, then filed away in a **lab portfolio**.
- A lab is considered **COMPLETED** when all lab documents have been completed, and a lab report has been submitted.
- Labs with a score of **65% or above** will count towards the 1200 minute lab requirement needed to take the Regents Exam.

## Classwork

- **Classwork Assignments will be given a specific due date. They are to be submitted by the end of the school day.**
  - **Missing** assignments that are turned in **after 5 days** will be given a completion grade of **65%**.
  - **Incomplete** assignments will be given a grade of **60%**
  - **Redos** (assignments that are **completed incorrectly**) will be given a score of **60%**
- Students will be expected to complete any class notes, or activities within a given class period.
- Assignments may either be checked for completion, or collected to check for understanding.
- All in-class assignments are due the same day.

## Class Participation

- There will be multiple opportunities for students to actively engage in discussion within our class, either in small groups or as a whole group.
- Be prepared to (respectfully!) discuss, argue, and reflect on our learning this year in Science!
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### Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of unauthorized help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are considered serious offenses and will significantly affect your course grade.

**Cheating** on tests, quizzes, homework, classwork, etc. will not be tolerated. You will receive a zero for the assignment if you cheat off of someone or allow someone to cheat off of you. Multiple offenses will result in disciplinary action. ***While many assignments involve working in groups, you are expected to produce your own work.***

## Materials Needed for Living Environment

1. Binder with multi-subject tabs(for readings and classroom worksheets).
2. **Pearson** *The Living Environment* workbook
3. Black or blue ball-point pen and a sharpened pencil.
4. Planner for completing assignments
5. Google Classroom Access\*
6. PupilPath Access\*
7. **Charged laptops with plugs.**
  - It is your responsibility to remember your passwords! If your account is disabled due to forgetting your password or inappropriate use of your dlmsnyc account, it will negatively impact your class participation grade.
  - In order to make the most efficient use of your time during class, avoid having technology issues - please make sure you plug in your laptop after every use.
  - Don't forget to sign out of the laptop at the end of the period, to avoid another student having access to your account.