Environmental Biology

SYLLABUS AND EXPECTATIONS

### Teacher: breanne willard ROOM #: 102

### Phone #: (253) 571-6102 OFFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 7:00am-3:30pm

### EMAIL: bwillar@tacoma.k12.wa.us WEBSITE: http://willardbiology.weebly.com

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environmental Biology is a full-year course exploring our physical world through scientific inquiry. The course will build on concepts learned in middle school, and is structured around contemporary issues of health and ecosystem change faced by the community. Our study will revolve around hands-on learning experiences that will put you in the role of discovering truths about the world in which we live. Such activities require an open and focused mind. Your performance in this class will be measured by how well you can solve problems and demonstrate your understanding of concepts. For this reason, your active participation and productivity in class are the most significant commitments you can make to yourself and me during this course. I look forward to our joint exploration of the living world around us!

1. STUDENT OUTCOMES

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Unit** | **Description** |
| Ecosystems: Interactions and Energy | Understand dynamic factors affecting the size and diversity of populations in ecosystems, including the availability of resources and interactions between organisms. |
| Energy and Matter in Organisms: Photosynthesis & Respiration | Understand links between photosynthesis and respiration in organisms to cycles of energy and matter in the Earth system. |
| Evolution | Develop models about how rock layers record evidence of evolution as fossils, and relate evidence to principles of natural selection. |
| Genetics: Inheritance and Variation of Traits | Understand mechanisms that enable parents to pass traits on to their offspring, and the processes that give rise to variation. |
| From Cells to Organisms: Structure, Function, & Growth | Understand how cells use DNA to construct proteins, build biomass, reproduce, and create complex multicellular organisms that maintain stability. |
| Ecosystem Stability and Human Impact | Understand how Earth’s systems respond to changes, including climate change, and design solutions to mitigate the impacts of these changes on the biosphere. |

1. MATERIALS

Required Materials

* Composition Notebook
* Pens (blue or black ink)
* Pencil
* Highlighter

Recommended Materials

* Ruler
* Coloring Utensils
* Lab Coat (can be purchased through school for approximately $15-20)

1. CLASSROOM NORMS

* Respect your peers, ALWAYS. This classroom will be a safe and respectful learning environment for every student.
* Respect Equipment and Facilities: Clean up properly (Each student will be graded down for lab assignments for improper or lack of cleaning). A person willfully endangering the safety of others such as inappropriate use of machinery or a person vandalizing the greenhouse facilities, grounds, or classroom will be dropped from the class and will be required to pay for damages.
* Arrive on Time: It is your responsibility to arrive on time, enter in a quite manner, report to your chair, and do your daily entry task.
* Be prepared: At the start of each class, have a pen/pencil, journal, and paper ready to complete your daily entry task.
* Follow School Rules: No headgear (hats, rags, nets, hoods, etc.), No CD players, cell phones, digital music players, or video games are permitted during school hours. Hall passes will be required to leave during class and will be used sparingly. I reserve the right to confiscate cell phones, music players, and video games which are being used in class without permission.
* Dismissal: Students will be dismissed by the instructor, not by the bell. Classes will sometimes go late for various reasons. The last period of the day needs to put your chairs up on tables. Stay in seat until dismissed in classroom, or if in greenhouse, wait inside the greenhouse.

1. ATTENDANCE

So much of what we do in biology is through hands-on work in class, so it is essential that you’re present in order to master the material. Due to the nature of activities completed in class, it is never guaranteed that missed assignments and labs can be made up if you are not present for them.

* TARDY POLICY

You are given two ‘free’ tardies per semester. Daily participation points will be lost for each additional tardy AND: 4 tardies will result in a teacher conference and behavioral contract, 8 tardies will result in office referral, and 10+ tardies may result in being dropped from the class.

* EXCUSED ABSENCES

You are responsible for collecting and making up all missed work. Assignments can be found on the class website, and in the assignments folder located in the classroom. *Please do not ask for missed assignments during class.* Your make-up work must be completed within 3 days of your return to school (unless other arrangements are made with the teacher) including labs, quizzes, and tests. Work assigned prior to your absence must be turned in immediately upon your return.

* UNEXCUSED ABSENSES

Daily participation points will be lost for each unexcused absence. Labs cannot be made up. Assignments turned in late due to an unexcused absence will receive partial credit.

1. ASSESSMENT & GRADING SCALE

Grades for this course are weighted. Performance assessments (tests) are worth 65% of the total grade. Assignments are worth 10%. Labs are worth 10%. Homework is worth 10%. Final Exam is worth 5%.

**A** = 100-94%

**A-** = 93.9-90%

**B+** = 89.9-87%

**B** = 86.9-84%

**B-** = 83.9-80%

**C+** = 79.9-77%

**C** = 76.9-74%

**C-** = 73.9-70%

**D+** = 69.9-66%

**D** = 65-60%

**E** = 59.9% and below

1. ACADEMIC INTERVENTION

Any student who has not met a standard (demonstrated conceptual understanding) on his/her first attempt, AND has an overall grade below a ‘C’ will be required to complete additional learning work, academic intervention, and re-testing which generally runs from 2:15-2:45 (check the weekly schedule/updates on the classroom website for specific dates and times). During this time, students will have large or small group tutorials and/or time to work on the assessment/re-test. Individual help can be scheduled outside academic intervention. Academic Intervention is MANDATORY regardless of extra curricular activities.

1. ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN

There are 4 types of daily assignments: written assignments, activities, notes [readings/video/lecture], and labs. Students are required to maintain a Lab Journal containing all assignments. In addition, students will complete assessments periodically (which may be quizzes, tests, projects, or other performance assessments).

* **LABORATORY**: Students will be in a laboratory setting approximately once each week. Labs will include extensive pre-laboratory homework, the completion of the labs in class, assessment, and post-laboratory work (data analysis, book work & formal conclusions).
* **QUIZZES** will be both announced and unannounced. (The class following a lab or a reading assignment is a good time to expect a quiz!).
* **STANDARD ASSESSMENTS** (often thought of as exams but also include papers, projects, oral exams, etc) used to show proficiency within each of the targeted areas (the standards).

1. HOMEWORK

Homework is an extremely important aspect of this course, and serves two purposes: to expose students to new material so that they are ready to do hands-on activities when they arrive in class, or to give students an opportunity to practice and assess their own skills/knowledge. If homework is not completed, students may be disqualified from participating in classroom activities until it is complete, as they cannot move deeper into coursework on a given topic until prerequisite material is grasped. Homework will commonly be analysis questions from classroom activities, pre-labs to prepare for the next day, test study guides, and videos to introduce new concepts. **Expect to have homework 3 times a week**.

1. LEADERSHIP

A final component of this course is leadership. This is a CTE (career and technical education) course, meaning that in addition to providing science knowledge, it is meant to provide students with opportunities and skills to enter the workforce. Each student will be required to submit evidence of leadership activities. This could include participation in clubs, volunteering, after-school enrichment programs, working collaboratively in class, or helping other students. This component will be worth 100 points.

1. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is using someone else’s work or ideas without their permission, without their knowledge, or without giving them credit. Cheating is getting or giving someone else answers. During many in-class assignments you will work with other students but are responsible for recording your own ideas and work. If you do research for an assignment, you must put what you learn into your own words. All students who are caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero on that assignment.

1. LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Homework and other assignments that are turned in late will be eligible for **partial credit**. Some assignments will not be accepted late, as deemed by the teacher. Exceptions will be made for **excused absences** (please read attendance policy on the previous page). The most important thing is that you communicate with the teacher *before* assignments are passed due, so that in the case of exceptional circumstances, alternative arrangements can be made.

1. ELECTRONICS

Use of cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices will not be permitted in class, except when instructed to do so. This is a strict policy. The first violation: verbal warning. The second violation: phone will be confiscated and you may pick it up at the end of class. The third violation: phone will be confiscated and you may pick it up at the end of the school day. The fourth violation: phone will be confiscated, and will require parent pick up.

1. FOOD & BEVERAGES

Water that is contained in a sealable bottle is permitted in class. Food and other beverages will need to be stored in backpacks or in the hall. This is a safety issue, as we will be experimenting with live bacteria, chemicals, and other potentially harmful agents in this class. If you are eating in class, you will be asked to dispose of your food. If this becomes a chronic problem, an office referral may be issued.

##### **Aknowledgement of syllabus**

Please make sure you have read and understand your student’s expectations, commitments, and syllabus, the Tacoma Public Schools Student Safety Expectations, and the parent letter.

List any concerns or comments below and sign the bottom of this page. Please be sure to leave at least one phone number and/or email address where you can be reached during the time of your child’s class.

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Specific issues, concerns, or comments about your child:

Students please confirm that you understand the following class guidelines by initialing next to each item.

1. I understand that make up work is after school. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I understand that attendance in class greatly affects grades \_\_\_\_\_
3. I understand that there will be homework \_\_\_\_
4. I understand there are no electronics used in class & phones may be confiscated. \_\_\_\_\_

**I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO PERFORM TO & COMPLY WITH THE POLICIES STATED IN THIS SYLLABUS.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Printed Name Parent Signature Date

Sign and return by: Wednesday September 13, 2017