**Living Environment Syllabus**

**Description of the class:** Regents Living Environment is a course designed to help the learner have a greater understanding of all living things. This course is centered on a lab-oriented curriculum focusing on the development of science-literate citizens who possess the traits of curiosity and skepticism and who are able to use the strategies of a scientist by applying critical thinking skills to everyday situations. Students will actively engage in scientific inquiry through multiple learning strategies including experimentation, applying technology and cooperative learning.

To be eligible to take the Living Environment Regents exam each student is required to complete 1200 mins of lab time. Thirty written labs (30x 40mins= 1200) with passing scores must be on file for each student before they are allowed to test for the Living Environment Regents.

**Lab policy:** 13-15 labs will be offered each quarter the highest 10 lab scores will be averaged for the quarter grade.  Completed, graded lab reports will be kept in a locked file drawer. Students and parents may view them upon request but they need to remain in the classroom.

Please expect unit tests on the following topics:

·         Safety/ Scientific Method

·       Structure and Function

·       Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

·       Inheritance and Variation of Traits (Biotechnology)

·        Natural Selection and Evolution

·        Interdependent Relationships in  Ecosystems

**Testing policy:** Tests may be retaken and the new score will be averaged with the original.

**Homework policy:** homework is practice and will receive 100% credit if complete.

**Grading policy:**

·         Tests- 40%

·         Labs- 30%

·         Projects- 20%

·         Homework- 10%

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