

## **Environmental Systems Guidelines**

Mr. Calvin – Keep this in your notebook!

### **Welcome! This year in environmental Systems we will be learning about:**

- \*Basic biological principles, including how plants and animals live and grow and how they interact with us and each other
- \*The health of our planet's air and water
- \*Endangered species
- \*Human population
- \*Environmental decision making and environmental ethics
- \*How humans and human activities rely on the natural world and how we relate to it

### **The goal of this course is:**

To help you understand environmental issues, appreciate your impact on the environment and realize the key role you play in sustaining our planet and environment.

### **Everyday for this class you will need:**

- \*A three-ring binder with subject dividers. Label the dividers "Warm-ups", "Notes", "Objective Sheets", and "Graded Work". (To keep on top of your grade you will need to be able to find your work!) **Notebooks will be graded each six weeks for organization and completeness.** You must have your notebook in class and organized by Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> for a check and a grade.
- \*Paper to write on.
- \*Pens or pencils to write with.
- \*Class supplies. Because this is a lab class, we use several items which must be restocked each year. Each student is asked to bring in one of these to donate to the class. Your class needs to bring in

\_\_\_\_\_ by Friday, September 5, 2008.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

All of the expectations that I have of you in this class can be summed up with a single word: respect. This applies to me as well as to my students. Some examples of classroom respect include:

- \*Come to class on time
- \*Respect your classmates and their belongings
- \*Bring your class materials every day
- \*Leave the classroom clean
- \*Be prepared to learn

### **Grading System:**

Tests and major projects are considered “major grades” and will be 50% of your final grade. There will be at least three major grades in each six-week period. All other grades are considered “daily grades”, which includes labs, quizzes, warm-ups and homework. Remember, what you put into this class affects what you will get out of it. I don’t “give” grades; you earn them!

### **Absences, Make-up Work and Late Work:**

It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed. When you are absent from class, you will have the same number of days that you were absent to make up work without a loss of points. Be sure to find out what you have missed from the weekly agenda board. **If an assignment is late, the maximum grade possible after one day will be 65. After that, the maximum grade will be 50.** Quizzes should be made up during tutorial times within the timeline for make-up work.

If you are absent on a known test day, you will be expected to take the test **on the day that you return**. If you are absent the day before a test and no new material has been covered, you will take the test at the scheduled time. All tests will be announced at least a week in advance, so you will have plenty of time to prepare.

### **Field Work:**

This course involves a substantial amount of fieldwork. This means that there will be days that we go outside during our regular class time to work on a lab or an activity. Participation in these classes is a required part of this course. In case of bad weather, field work will be rescheduled, but sunshine, misting rain and cold are not considered to be bad weather. **You** are responsible for dressing appropriately. **I** am responsible for getting you back inside with enough time to get ready for your next class.

### **Working in the Lab:**

Safety is the most important thing in any lab. Although we don’t do “dangerous” labs, you will be responsible for maintaining a safe work environment. Before we can start any labs, each student must pass a safety test with 100%. I will send home a safety contract for both the parent and the student to sign. This contract must be signed and returned and the test must be passed before you can do a lab.

During this course, please remember that my door is always open to you , especially if you have any questions about the class, an assignment, or life in general. My conference period is 7<sup>th</sup>, and I hold official tutorials after school on Tuesday, but I am almost always here for a while after school. My e-mail can also be found on the school website, in the faculty/staff directory.

“All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth.”  
Chief Seattle, 1855

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