

**“The Living Environment – Part II”
Valley Stream South Jr/Sr High School
2008-2009**

Dear Student,

WELCOME to “The Living Environment – Part II”. This year will be exciting and beneficial for all of us. We are pleased to have you in our class and we wish you the best of luck and success throughout the year.

Course Structure:

- A. Class meets period(s) _____.
- B. Each student will receive a textbook the first week of school and is responsible for its return at the end of the school year. Textbooks are to be covered and handled with care (i.e. books are NOT to be written in or on, cut up, etc.). Textbooks are to be left at home for homework and study purposes. A class set of textbooks will be available for students in our classroom. **Textbook #:**
- C. Each day students are to bring the following items to class:
1. Pen, pencil, ruler and a calculator.
 2. A “3” ring binder used exclusively for **THIS CLASS**. (2” is the perfect size)
 3. A notebook for in class note taking and homework (preferably one that is hole punched to be kept in 3-ring binder). **Organization is the key to success!**

Grading:

Grading for this course will be based on a combination of **Tests, Quizzes, Lab Reports, and Homework**. Tests will be given approximately every two weeks. Quizzes will be given periodically and may be given with or without prior notification. Tests (50%) and quizzes (20%) equal 70% of your grade and are critical for success in this course.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

1. Tests (50%)
2. Quizzes (20%)
3. Written Lab Reports and Lab Quizzes (20%)
4. Homework and Homework Quizzes (10%)

Parent/Guardian Signature:

A parent or guardian **MUST** sign every test or quiz with a grade below 65%. Failure to get papers signed will result in a missing homework assignment and a phone call home. Each student must record his or her grades (tests, quizzes, labs) in his or her agenda book. This is to insure that no mistakes are made when calculating averages. This will allow students and parents to track their progress.

Homework:

Homework will be given 3-5 times a week. Homework is checked daily and will be graded on a random basis. Homework quizzes will also be given on a random basis.

Notebook Checks:

Every student is required to have a 3-ring binder used exclusively for this class. You will receive organized packets for each unit in addition to homework sheets and labs. Random notebook checks will be conducted to monitor students' organizational skills.

Labs:

Students are required to complete a specific number of labs with a written lab report (please see NYS Science Regents Lab Requirement Contract). If a lab is incomplete, it will be returned to the student to be completed. All labs and lab reports must be completed in class. Students will be given ample time to complete each lab. Any lab not completed in class will be completed after school that same day. Please use your time wisely. Labs are 20% of your grade and are calculated by a combination of written lab reports and lab quizzes. All graded lab reports will be kept in my possession. The New York State Board of Regents requires teachers to keep student's lab reports to prove that any student taking the Regents Exam has met the lab requirement. Any student that does not meet the lab requirement will not receive credit for the course. He or she will not be able to take the course in summer school and will have to repeat the course next school year. A spreadsheet with each student's name and completed lab reports will be posted in our classroom. Students will know what labs they are missing at all times.

Make-up Work:

Whenever you are absent, you are still responsible for work that was completed in class and homework assigned while you were out. It is your responsibility to contact another student from the class to find out what you missed. The day you return from your absence, it is your responsibility to get the required handouts.

Name and Phone Number: _____

Name and Phone Number: _____

Mr. Buonagurio's Class Online:

web address: <http://ourteacherspage.com/mrb>

The growing availability and use of technology has become extremely beneficial within the field of education. In an effort to provide the most enjoyable and accessible educational experience, I have developed a website specifically designed for my students. I urge both students and parents to become familiar with my website and to explore the use of this resource to access:

- A comprehensive course outline complete with class notes, lab assignments, and other links.
- Weekly homework assignments
- Extra Help Schedule
- Special Announcements
- Links to beneficial websites
- And much more!

Extra Help:

Extra help will be given according to the district policy. Monday and Thursday will incorporate extra help periods at the end of 9th period. If a student requires extra help on other days, we will do our best to meet our students' requests. Appointments will be required.

It is important to us for you to be successful in this learning experience. You will enjoy this course and we are looking forward to a fun and exciting year.

Thank You,

Mr. M. Buonagurio
Mrs. J. Polletta