This is a full year Regents biology (living environment) course w/ labs. Students will learn about the human body & its different systems & diseases. Students will also learn about simple organisms, plants, genetics, ecology & evolution, with emphasis placed on human impacts on the natural world.

**Please note that if a student misses a Regents, this will be factored into their final average as a zero (0). Students will not be given INC (Incomplete) for Regents exams unless they can provide medical documentation excusing their absence. Below you will find the link to the 2024 June Regents Exam schedule for planning purposes. Successfully passing the Regents exam is required in order to obtain Regents credit for the course, which is a graduation requirement.**

[June 2024 NYS Regents Schedule](https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/june-2024-regents-examination-schedule)

***\*\*IMPORTANT\*\****

**GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

* Students MUST log in with their **school accounts** (not personal accounts).
* ALL work turned in MUST be turned in using their **school accounts.**
* ALL Google Forms MUST be completed using student school accounts. If a device is shared between students/adults in a household, **ALL OTHER ACCOUNTS MUST BE SIGNED OUT OF, OR THE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED** (I won’t have access to it). If unsure how to ensure all accounts are signed out, it is easiest to restart the device.
* When turning in work on Google Classroom, students must 1) Attach any work/uploads as required 2) remember to click “Turn In” when completed. Not all assignments will be turned in via Google Classroom; teacher will inform students as to the method of turn-in.
* I will not provide extra chances or do-overs to students who do not complete or turn in their work in the correct fashion.

**Requirements for Regents Biology**

1. **NYS requires that 1200 minutes of lab activity be successfully completed in order for a student to sit for the Regents exam in June; failure to turn in enough labs to reach this target will result in the student being barred from the Regents Exam.** Course credit required for graduation will not be attained until a student has passed both the course and the Living Environment Regents exam.
2. **All labs are due at minimum no later than one week prior to the date of the Living Environment Regents Examination.**
3. Students are not allowed to take lab materials out of the classroom.
4. Homework will typically consist of copying down class notes at home (provided on Google Classroom). **I GENERALLY DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK UNLESS DUE TO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES; AN ABSENCE IS GENERALLY NOT AN EXCUSE FOR NOT COMPLETING THE HOMEWORK, AS ASSIGNMENTS ARE ON THE COURSE WEBSITE.**
5. Non-lab projects lose 10% for every day late past the due date, before the assignment is graded.
6. Discipline policy is in effect at all times.
7. Extra help is available to every student when he or she wants to come, but the student is responsible for meeting with me in order to schedule the extra help.
8. Each student should have a notebook for notes and homework and a binder and folders for handouts. Students should come to class prepared. This means they must have a pen or pencil.
9. **IT IS EACH STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO FIRST SEE ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.**
10. **ALL HOMEWORKS AND CLASS NOTES ARE POSTED ON THE GOOGLE CLASSROOM; IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO JOIN THE CLASSROOM.**

**COURSE MATERIALS**:  \*I will not supply materials.

* Index cards and metal key rings (for required flash card assignments)
* 3-ring Binder/loose leaf paper OR multi-subject notebook
* Folder, with pockets and punched holes (if preferring a 3-ring binder)
* Pencils
* blue or black pens
* simple calculator
* colored pencils
* metric ruler
* **I STRONGLY ADVISE THE ACQUISITION OF THE BLUE BARRON’S REGENTS REVIEW BOOK AS A STUDY TOOL FOR ALL UNIT EXAMS, BENCHMARKS, AND THE REGENTS EXAM.**

**COURSE GRADE\*** The following components will comprise the course grade:

* **84% 4 quarter grades (21% each quarter)**
* **6% Midterm exam grade**
* **10% Regents Exam (REQUIRED; no lab practical component; no reference table)**

**QUARTER GRADES:**  Each quarterly average is calculated as follows:

**Assessments: 50%**

**Labs: 30%**

**Homework, Classwork, Remote work, Quizzes, projects: 20%**

**ASSESSMENTS**

Exams will be given at the end of each unit. Shorter assessments may be given on a weekly basis, using student chromebooks, so it is imperative that students bring [charged] chromebooks to class on a daily basis. Opportunities for battery charging will be provided within the room.

**QUIZZES**

Quizzes may be either announced or unannounced, or both. There will typically be 1-2 quizzes per unit, subject to change at the discretion of the teacher and flow of the course. They may be virtual, or in person. They are weighted points based on their length, as are the weekly assessments.

**HOME WORK**

Homework is assigned on a nightly basis, and is due the next day, to be checked for completion. Typically, homework will consist of hand-copying the provided notes at home, to be checked in person the following day. From past experience, the multiple exposures to the material (at home, in person, and in review) affords students the most opportunities to retain that material. Additionally, hand-writing the material forces students to actively process the material, rather than passively reading over the provided notes. Class notes are labeled by their unit and day within the unit, in order (for example: the homework due the first day of the unit 1 is labeled 1.1, the homework due the 4th day of unit 1 is 1.4, etc.). Occasionally, homework will additionally consist of completing the day’s classwork. **We will generally NOT use class time to take down notes.**

**CLASS WORK**

In-class activities will be based on and reinforce the preceding night’s worth of homework, so that all material can be covered within the school year. It is imperative that students stay current with their assignments and not fall behind. Even if a student is absent from class, it is still their responsibility to stay current with their nightly assignments to make the most of their available in-person time. If you are caught talking or communicating in anyway, or caught cheating during a test or quiz, you will receive a ZERO as your test/quiz grade. **We will generally NOT use class time to take down notes.**

If any work is shown to not be your original work you will receive a grade of a ZERO as your assignment grade

**FLASHCARD ASSIGNMENTS**

Every unit, students are required to create a minimum of 20 flashcards as an aide to learning the vocabulary of the course, as this course is vocabulary-based. The term is to appear on one side of the card, with the definition and drawing (if applicable) appearing on the reverse side. Students should hole-punch the top left corner of each card to keep them together with a ring-clasp, and compile them by unit for midterm and Regents exam review. As incentive, each of these will count as a 10-point exam grade. Not completing the flashcard assignment will result in an exam grade of 0.

IT IS EACH STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO FIRST SEE ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

**LABS MUST BE COMPLETED AND ARE DUE BY EACH STUDENT’S NEXT RESPECTIVE LAB SECTION.** If you are having a problem finishing your lab, please see me BEFORE the due date! Remember: labs that leave the classroom historically show a much greater chance of being lost and/or not turned in. It is YOUR responsibility for turning in your labs on time. **UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE, LATE LABS WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF 50%, BUT FULL AMOUNT OF REGENTS MINUTES CREDIT.**

**LAB:** You will need:

* pencils (also used in biology class)
* colored pencils (also used in biology class)
* calculator (also used in biology class)
* metric ruler (also used in biology class)

**LAB GRADING**

Labs will be graded, and weighted, by the number of days in the lab cycle. A single day lab is worth 10 points, a triple day lab is worth 30 points, etc. Labs are due by each student’s next scheduled lab period (A day lab due the following A day, for example)

Corrected and returned labs must be kept in your Lab Folder in the classroom and cannot be taken from the room for any reason. Labs that are not in the folder will not count toward the required labs. There must be the required number of satisfactory completed (greater than 50% score) labs in your folder at the end of the year in order to take the Living Environment Regents Exam. This rule has been dictated by the New York State Education Department, not the Superintendent’s Office, not CCHS, not the Principal’s office, not the Science Department, and not by me, the classroom teacher.

Any missed graded work (non-homework) **DUE TO ABSENCE** must be made up by the end of the unit or a zero will be given for the missed work. **Please see me as soon as you return** to make an appointment to make-up your work.

**ABSENCES FROM LAB:**

It is your responsibility to make up all labs that you have missed for ANY REASON. Corrected and returned labs must be kept in your Lab Folder in the classroom and cannot be taken from the room for any reason. Labs that are not in the folder will not count toward the required labs. There must be the required number of satisfactory labs in your folder at the end of the year in order to take the Earth Science Regents Exam. This rule has been dictated by the New York State Education Department, not the Superintendent’s Office, not CCHS, not the Principal’s office, not the Science Department, and not by me, the classroom teacher.

**CELL PHONE POLICY**

CCSD’s Code of Conduct contains a cell phone policy of “off and away”. How teachers choose to accomplish this in their classrooms is up to the individual classroom teacher, these procedures will be shared with students in every class on the first day of school. As the policy emphasizes, students' cell phones need to be off and away so that we are offering an optimal educational atmosphere for learning. Students should not be retrieving their cell phones to take to the bathroom with them or to wander the halls. Students who do not adhere to this policy may be subject to discipline. I have a hanging storage area for cell phones, with each student having their own storage pocket for safe keeping of cell phones during class, and to avoid the potential for distraction of said device if kept in a pocket.

**ATTENDANCE**

Student attendance is imperative for student success. In order to properly learn and retain information students need to be in class and participating in a lesson. Staying home and submitting assignments via Google Classroom is not a substitute for instruction from a teacher. NYS has a seat time requirement for students to earn credit. Students who have poor attendance will be required to meet with school social workers about school avoidance and families will be required to work with high school staff to chart a course of action to correct a student's attendance. If attendance issues are not resolved school staff may need to contact additional outside resources to intervene.

**LATENESS**

In addition to attendance it is imperative that students are on time for school. Students that come into class late disrupt the learning that is taking place and are missing seat time. Students that develop habits of lateness will be required to meet with school support staff and their parents/guardians to create a plan of action to arrive at school on time. Students that are late will be subject to discipline.

**DRESS FOR SUCCESS**

The mission of CCHS is to prepare students for college and career readiness. As part of that mission we would like students to focus on appropriate dress for the venue they are attending. For example what one would wear to the beach or the gym is not appropriate for school and or typically places of employment. Students should not be wearing clothing that advertises drugs, alcohol, explicit adult websites or entertainment, tobacco, weapons, foul language or abbreviated foul language etc. Students that do not adhere to the Dress Code may be subject to discipline

**LATE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

* Be sure you are fully prepared for class as passes will be kept to a minimum
* Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated
* Appropriate dress is required all students; the school’s dress code must be adhered to.
* Cell phones and other electronic devices are NOT permitted in class

**The Rules of my Classroom**

* Respect others
* Respect yourself
* Class begins when the bell rings; please be in your seats. Students not in their seats will be marked LATE.
* Be ready to learn when class begins (no talking; pay attention to the teacher)
* Do **NOT** shout out questions or answers; Raise your hand to ask or answer a question.
* Wait until being called on before asking or answering questions; do NOT blurt out.
* Do **NOT** throw any items around the room.
* NO cell phones (including texting) unless otherwise approved
* NO Food or Drink, except closed/sealable water bottles
* NO horseplay
* NO foul language
* **Enjoy class!**

**Negative Consequences**

* First time: Warning
* Second time: 1 minute after class and parent/guardian contact
* Third time: Full 30 min. detention\* OR referral, depending on current health codes
* **Severity Clause: Immediately sent to Administrator**

**NOTE:**

**How can you Master Living Environment?**

Study the material every night, do as many problems in addition to the assigned problems as you possibly can, and always try to relate new concepts and ideas to what you have already learned. Do no simply try to memorize the answers. In the hundreds of years of history of Biology, the memorization route has never, ever succeeded. The most important material will be covered in the first several weeks of the class; learn this now and the rest of the year will be comprehensible.  **DO NOT FALL BEHIND**

How should you study Living Environment? There is no one correct way to study, but there are several ways to be discussed in class. You need to find what works best for you. Some other tools that are particularly effective are the ones below.

1. Outline the lecture notes every week. That is, rewrite your notes and the book chapters using the fewest possible words in outline format, with arrows connecting related ideas. This will greatly increase the learning process by organizing the important concepts in your mind. It will also focus your attention on any problems you have understanding the material **before** it is too late. You will then be prepared to better comprehend the material presented in the following class. New material invariably builds upon old material. **DO NOT FALL BEHIND**
2. Make a “roadmap” that shows all the types of relationships learned in this course and draw arrows between them with the appropriate “tools” written over the arrows. Pay particular attention to conditions that are involved with metabolism and homeostasis. This map will be your guide as you build upon your understanding of homeostasis, the scientific method, and the living environment.

I look forward to an enjoyable and productive year with your child. If there are any concerns that you have or special situations I should be aware of, please contact me at your earliest convenience. The longer you wait, the more detrimental to your child’s learning it could be. Please mark the report card and progress report dates on your calendar and look for the report in the mail about a week and a half after that date. Please feel free to contact me at any time. I check my e-mail multiple times throughout the school day. My e-mail address is at the top of this paper.

**I ask that all parents/guardians email me at:** [**jhubbard@cornwallschools.com**](mailto:jhubbard@cornwallschools.com) **by Friday September 3rd, as a way of verifying that you have reviewed this material with your child. Additionally, I can not keep you updated on your child’s progress unless I have your contact information. You do NOT need to print, sign and return this page this year, but will be accepted in lieu of email. Thank you!**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to request your email address for communications throughout the school year, in order to keep you informed of what your child will be learning in class. Also, please include your phone number (preferred phone number) in case I need to contact your directly.

Your interest in your child’s education is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joshua Hubbard

Science Teacher

STUDENT’S NAME (PRINT)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and have your child turn this letter into me by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_th for credit.

I have, with my son/daughter, read the class expectations and will support and contribute, whenever and wherever possible, in order for successful completion of this science course.

PARENT/GUARDIAN’S NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN’S SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN’S PHONE NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN’S EMAIL ADDRESS(S)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_