

# WELCOME TO LIVING ENVIRONMENT!!!!

## **2020-2021**

### **Course Description:**

This year we will be studying Living Environment, a NYS Regents curriculum. We will have a strong emphasis on measurement, laboratory investigations, and problem solving. Topics we will cover include: Scientific method, Characteristics of Living Things, Human Body Systems, Genetics and Mechanisms of Inheritance, Homeostasis, Reproduction and Development, Variation and Adaptations, Ecology, Environmental Issues.

### **Expectations:**

- **Be prepared: this means, bringing your computer & charger to school with you**
- **Be engaged: participate in class discussions and activities**
- **Be respectful: we are all in this together. Practice kindness towards others**
- **No food, beverages, or phones will be allowed in class**

**Microsoft Teams:** All work will be assigned via Microsoft Teams. Students are expected to keep up to date and communicate via Teams. Should you have any question on this, please reach out to me. All families have free access via office.com. Should you have issues with teams, I have placed a video on my webpage on how to access.

### **Grading Policy: Based on Points**

**Quizzes/Tests: 20-30 points each.**

**Participation/Homework: Exit tickets will be given daily. Your attendance and participation will be based on you completing these assignments. These will vary by difficulty and length**

**\*\*You will be given 1 Castle Learning assignments per week**

**Labs: 10-30 points each**

### **Labs:**

Students are required to complete **1200 lab minutes**. Labs will be given a grade which will be weighted similar to a test. There are **4 required NYS Regents labs** that **MUST** be completed & score above a 65% to be eligible to take the NYS Living Environment Regents Exam in June. Failure to complete these labs will result in a student's inability to sit for the Regents Exam and receive credit for the course. **COVID-19 Schedule:**

**COVID has changed our normal. We are all making adjustments to live our lives during these uncertain times.**

**On the days you are in school:**

- **Come prepared with something to write with and your laptop/charger**
- **Be engaged in class activities and discussions**
- **Complete labs**
- **Take notes**

**On the days you are virtual:**

- Complete work and submit online via Teams
- Each day will have an exit ticket that must be completed and will act as your attendance for the day
- You will be asked to complete activities using Castle Learning, Nearpod, and other virtual sites

**\*\*\*\*Wednesdays!!!** I will be taking attendance during our LIVE synchronous classes. These classes will be recorded. You will be graded on your attendance and participation in these discussions. Topics covered will vary.

**Make-up work:**

**If a student is absent from school, it is their responsibility to make up the work within a week of their return to school. Any missed work will become a zero. All work will be found on Microsoft Teams.**

**Notebook:**

Students will keep a virtual notebook & a physical notebook for their own use. Students will have access to their materials via Teams, located in their team notebook and files placed into the team.

**Extra Help:**

Given the changing nature of this school year, it will be best for students to ***reach out to me directly via Teams.*** I will make myself available for office hours as requested by students. If you have any concerns or questions about this year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank-you for your time and interest in your child's education.

Sincerely-

Jessica Altman

8th Grade Living Environment, Room 321

[jaltman@nfschools.net](mailto:jaltman@nfschools.net)

Parents, feel free to contact me [via remind: @altmanliv](#)

Please read above, sign and return the following page. Thanks!

# **LIVING ENVIRONMENT MRS. ALTMAN**

## **TO BE SIGNED AND RETURNED**

**To be returned or signed on line: Mrs. Altman's beginning of the school year letter:**

I have read Mrs. Altman class policies found on her website <https://www.nfschools.net/Domain/2536> or via Microsoft Teams. I understand that there is a 1200 minute lab requirement and that my child needs to pass (65%) all 4 of the mandatory state labs to be eligible for the Living Environment Regents exam in June.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Science Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ (relationship)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Means of Communication:**

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ and/or Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: