**Ms. Rinaldo’s and Mrs. Clisby’s**

**Living Environment - Biology Course Syllabus**

School Phone: (845) 855-4620

Email: Rinaldog@pcsdny.org

Email: Clisbyc@pcsdny.org

Website: [www.Rinaldog.com](http://www.Rinaldog.com)

Ms. Rinaldo’s Free Periods: 1, 9 (By Appointment ONLY)

Ms. Clisby’s Free Periods: 5, 6, 7 (By Appointment ONLY)

Course Description

Welcome to the Regents Living Environment/Biology course offered at Pawling High School. The course emphasizes an in depth understanding of major concepts rather than memorization of science facts. Key topics covered include: Characteristics of Living Systems, Human Structure and Function, Genetics and Mechanism of Inheritance, Genetic Engineering, Variation Adaptation Evolution, Reproduction and Development, Energy Pathways, Disease and Homeostasis, Interdependence, Biotic and Abiotic Interactions, and Technology and the Environment.

Students are expected to be motivated, self-disciplined, willing to work as a team, persistent, and capable of both remembering details and seeing “the big picture”.  Biology is a tangible subject for most students, so this class will also focus on human health and global issues, as well as how the study of biology differs across different cultures.

The Biology course includes lectures, class discussions, projects, inquiry learning, activities, group work, laboratory work, and lab reports. As much as possible we will try to include real world experiences such as field trips. There will be a significant amount of content to cover; therefore you will be responsible to do a great deal of work out of school. This will require a sincere commitment on your part, which you should institute from the very beginning of classes.

The course culminates with a Regents exam. Students must successfully complete 1,200 minutes of NY State mandated hands-on laboratory exercises in order to be eligible to sit for the exam. The laboratory time is in addition to the normal instructional time compared to the other core courses. A satisfactory laboratory write-up is the criteria for successful completion of the lab exercise. There are four NYS recommended labs that are assessed on Part D of the Regents Exam. Failure to meet lab requirements will result in a failing grade and ineligibility to take the Living Environment Regents exam. Attendance is imperative.

Student Responsibilities

* Students should attend class everyday (Physically/Virtually)
* Students are expected to be on time, attentive and participate in class
* Students are responsible for reading assigned chapters whether they are discussed in class or not
* Students are expected to do all assignments, whether they are discussed in class or not (Assignments will be posted in Google Classroom Daily)

\*Successful students are self-learners, independent, and responsible\*

In our class, we will adhere to the following guidelines to promote integrity:

* Study and work in an honest and respectable manner.
* You must complete and submit your own work.
* You are encouraged to work with others only under prescribed circumstances.
* Do not copy someone else's answers in or out of the classroom.
* Do not seek unauthorized help from those outside the classroom.
* Cite all sources.
* Quizzes and tests are to be completed without assistance from any outside source.
* Keep your eyes on your own paper/computer during quizzes and exams.
* Protect your answers.
* Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be used for educational purposes ONLY

If a violation of the honor code is suspected the student(s) will be invited to meet privately with the instructor, the behavior discussed and necessary paperwork will be submitted.

Please understand that YOU, much more than WE, will determine your success in this course. The course goes at a rapid pace for the whole year and nothing less than your full attention will be needed to keep your head above water. We expect that the required course materials will be brought to class daily. Please keep the Biology textbook that was checked out to you at home in a safe location. You should be reading the Biology text book nightly so I do not expect you to carry it to and from school every day. If a textbook is required for a lesson at school, then we will provide you with one digitally. You should be ready to discuss the information read in any assigned chapters. The digital version is also accessible via Google Read & Write.

***Philosophy-***

Studying Biology in the 21st Century is a very exciting time. “The Study of Life”, what could be more interesting? It is our hope that everyone in this class will share a love of Biology and an intense desire to investigate all the incredible new discoveries that are being made every day. Our classroom will be a safe place to question, learn, and teach each other. We expect all of you to participate fully in every aspect of this course. This will include your best attendance, focus, effort, and pushing yourself beyond your usual limits. If all of us are vested in this way, we will have a successful and thrilling year together. We will help you with study and homework strategies to insure that you do your very best in this class and that you are prepared to go on and study more about life in college.

***Attendance & Make-up Work-***

It is your responsibility to be in class. If you are unable to attend it is **YOUR** **OWN** responsibility to complete your make-up work. It is your responsibility to acquire and make-up any class work, homework and notes from any absence. Most, but not all, assignments are available on Google Classroom. You will have the number of days that you were absent to complete make-up work. After the allotted number of days, if the work is not completed the grade is a **ZERO**! If a student is absent the day of a previously scheduled exam or project, the student will be prepared to take the test or turn in the assignment on the first day of return.

***Classroom Rules & Expectations-***

1. Be on time (Physically/Virtually) and in your seat when the bell rings with all required supplies.
2. Chromebook must be CHARGED and will be used DAILY.
3. Keep all personal items in your backpack. This includes: hats, cell phones, iPods, electronics, cosmetics, etc.
4. Be actively involved in your learning by taking responsibility for your actions, effort and participation.
5. Be respectful to your teachers, peers and all Pawling High School staff members.

***Plagiarism & Cheating-***

If you are caught copying from the internet or any other source without citation, you will receive a zero for that assignment. If you are caught copying off somebody else’s work and/or you are letting a person copy from your work, you will be given a zero for that assignment. We will be using a plagiarism checking software to assess originality.

***Teacher Obligations-***

We are here to teach students the topics included in the curriculum set forth by the New York State Board of Education.  Students can monitor their own progress via the Parent Portal and Google Classroom.  We are available during free periods listed by appointment and after school virtually by appointment ONLY, to offer additional help and assist in finding other ways to help students. We will treat all students fairly and do all in our power to ensure the success of our students.  We will update grades at least once per week to keep students and parents aware of progress through the course.

***Extra Help-***

Extra Help is available only virtually after school, by appointment ONLY, every day from 2:25 pm to 3:05 pm. Other appointments for extra help can made in addition to these hours if needed. Additionally, we are available via email. This is a privilege that will not be extended to you if you owe homework, talk excessively during class and note-taking, or have any referrals for inappropriate behavior during the current unit.

***Supplies-***

1. 3 Ring Binder with dividers (TO BE LEFT AT HOME-Used for storing note guides when completed)
2. 2 Pocket Folder (TO BROUGHT TO SCHOOL-Used to store current note guides and labs)
3. Pens, Pencils and Highlighters
4. Scientific or graphing calculator (Please use the calculator provided by the Math Department at PHS)
5. At some point it will be necessary to purchase a review book. Information will be given at that time.
6. *Textbook* - You will be given a textbook to keep at home. You will need your textbook to complete assignments, such as reading, research, vocabulary, and chapter questions. Students are responsible for returning the book at the end of the school year or are required to pay to replace the textbook.
7. Homework Log –to write down homework assignments (Physical or Digital Homework Log)

### \*You will be expected to have all these supplies with you by Monday 9/21. If you have any problem obtaining these supplies, please see me.’

***Laboratory Component-***

Students are provided with labs that comprise a portion of the course and include inquiry labs. Students are expected to read each lab carefully and are responsible for following all correct laboratory and safety procedures. Students should read every lab thoroughly to make sure they understand all lab procedures BEFORE beginning a lab exercise. Due to the large amount of time required for laboratory set-up, it is essential that you are always present on lab days. All labs will be due within a week of completion.  A due date will be set at the start of the lab.  Late lab work will have points deducted.

***Grading Policy-***

Your grade will be calculated based on the following topics:

Class work/ Homework- 20%

Projects and Activities- 20%

Tests/ Quizzes-40 %

Class Participation and Preparedness- 5%

Labs- 15%

***Suggestions for Student Success-***

You will find this course quite challenging. You will also grow and learn strategies for dealing with challenges. Different strategies work for different people. There are no magic formulas. Here are some suggestions for success:

1. Read the chapter section that we are going over BEFORE the class.
2. Reread the chapter and notes from class. For some, rewriting/organizing notes is an effective use of time.
3. Ask questions.
4. Some chapters are better digested in smaller chunks.
5. Use the vocabulary lists, text headings, and questions to help you focus on important points in each chapter. Try different study strategies and learn which works best for you.
6. Stay up to date on your assignments, lab activities and projects.
7. Use the text to prepare assignments but do NOT copy from the book or any other resource. Be sure to paraphrase and/or write in your own words.
8. Proof read all written assignments before submitting them. Hand in assignments that are neat, legible show attention to detail and demonstrate pride in your work. PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS!
9. Start test review/preparation AT LEAST 3 days before the test.
10. Utilize online study tools such as Quizlet to review.
11. Find and work with a study partner and/a study group frequently.
12. Pay attention during lecture and help to maintain a distraction-free learning environment. This means that you do not talk to anyone unless it is in direct relation to an assigned activity.
13. Participate intelligently in class discussions often.

**Living Environment Regents Exam -June 2021**

You may check your own/child’s status/grades online at Pawling High School’s Parent Portal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email or telephone listed above.

Looking forward to a fantastic and successful year!

Sincerely,

Gillian Rinaldo Christine Clisby

Pawling High School Pawling High School

Science Teacher Special Education Teacher

Rinaldog@pcsdny.org Clisbyc@pcsdny.org

Dear Parents,

 Please review the course syllabus with your child, then complete and sign in the space below. Return ***ONLY*** this page to Ms. Rinaldo and Mrs. Clisby. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at Rinaldog@pcsdny.org or Clisbyc@pcsdny.org.

In order to be kept advised and updated on homework, projects, test dates etc., please visit our class website often (Google Classroom and/or [www.Rinaldog.com](http://www.Rinaldog.com)). In addition, Parent Portal is available to check your own/child’s status/grades online. Your involvement will help to ensure a successful year for your child.

**STUDENT NAME (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT NAME/S (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I have read and understand all of the above requirements.

Student Signature

Parent Signature