Ecology

Students will study the interrelationships of plants and animals with physical and biotic factors of the environment and the structure and composition of terrestrial and aquatic communities. Other topics include population dynamics, nutrient cycles, and energy flow.

**Classroom Expectations:**

**Required Materials:**

Notebook (3-ring binder) Provided by the teacher

Pencils and pens

loose-leaf paper

**Required Texts:**

**Environmental Science** (Holt) Text and Online Access Provided

**Ecology** (Glencoe Science)

**Ecology Reading Essentials Interactive Student Textbook**

**Ecology Laboratory Activities Manual**

**Ecosystems Laboratory Handbook**

**Ethno-botany Explorers** (Glencoe Science)

**Grades** will be based upon a percentage of the total points earned. Points may be earned by test scores, assignments, lab work, class group participation, and quizzes.

**Grading Policy:** Grades will be comprised of the following percentages.

25% Lab Work and Group/Independent Experiments

30% Mastery Work

30% Exams and Quizzes

15% Homework and Class Work

**Preparation:** Bring all required materials to class every day. This includes assignments, lab work, books, pencil and paper. Students are expected to arrive on time and begin work on the warm-up question immediately. Warm-up questions and answers will be reviewed on test day, but may be monitored daily as an included portion of that day’s assignment.

**Tardiness:** A student will be considered tardy if they are not seated in their assigned location when the tardy bell rings. The third, fourth, and fifth tardy will result in a Dean’s Referral and demerits. Every consecutive tardy after will result in a Dean’s referral, parent telephone call and/or conference. Please do not be late for class.

**Mastery Work and Homework:** Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments must be turned in on the assigned date. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missing work due to an absence. Students can expect to have an assignment nearly every school day. Most days will consist of some class time to work. This will allow students to acquire assistance if needed. There is not a distinction between classwork and homework assignments. All make-up work must be made up in a timely manner usually by the end of the week.

**Exams:** Tests are usually given once per chapter. Students will be encouraged to read the chapters on their own. Any information in the chapter may appear on the test. All students will be required to take the test on the scheduled day regardless of prior absence. It is the student’s responsibility to inquire about a make-up test or late assignment due date. Failure to take a make-up test or turn in work in a timely manner will result in a lower grade. Tests may only be made up before or after school.

**Lab Activities:** This course will require many hands-on activities that involve living things, both plants and animals. Students who do not demonstrate proper care and use of all classroom materials and equipment will not be allowed to participate during laboratory work. This will result in a lower score for the lab portion of the grade. Rules and safety guidelines will be introduced prior to the lab assignment. Eating, drinking or chewing gum is not allowed during Lab Activities.

NYS requires that students complete 1200 minutes of laboratory experiments in order to receive credit for a science course. Students who do not complete the required labs will not be able to pass the course and receive credit. It is very important that students attend school on the days when lab activities are scheduled.

Email Account: All students are required to have a **Google gmail** account to send and receive assignments and notifications.

I have read, understood and will follow the expectations in science class.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_