**Bonneville High School**

**Environmental Science Class**

Instructors: Mr. Walker

Room: 214

**Course Description:** This course will focus on global environmental problems as they relate to the local community. Students will learn the scientific principles necessary to understand and make decisions about environmental problems.

*Class Rules and Procedures*

Welcome to our class! We will spend quite a bit of time at the start of the school year on classroom rules and procedures. The purpose of rules is to provide a positive, effective, and safe learning environment for all students. Appropriate behavior is expected in every situation.

**RULES OF THE CLASS**:

***1. Be Respectful 2. Be Responsible 3. Everyone has Rights***

Courteous conduct is required to school staff and students at all times. We are all individuals with feelings, and all members of the class are expected to respect others’ feelings. We will discuss the ‘3 R’s’ in class. \*\*\*All school rules also apply\*\*\*

**Failure to comply with rules:**

1. **Verbal Warning**
2. **Detention/Written Warning with a phone call to parents**
3. **Saturday School with a phone call to parents**

**Homework requirements:**

When satisfactory homework not submitted:

1. letter/email home/red card
2. Loss of following privileges:

A) seating preference at teachers discretion.

B) no music time

C) movement to back wall to work (detention if unsatisfactory work not submitted)

D) no food or drinks in class

E) bring book to class each day (detention if unprepared).

***Classroom Preparation***

**Materials for class:**

1. Folder/Binder This notebook will contain your classroom notes and assignments. All assignments should be in the binder/folder, with your name on it. You should have this as a reference as you study for your exams. Do not throw away assignments/notes until the end of the semester.

2. Paper You should have blank notebook paper contained in your binder.

3. Pen or pencil Please no fluorescent colors, pinks, or red ink; all other colors are allowed. BTW. Invisible is not a color.

4. Self Attendance is VERY important – you need to be in class to participate, receive instructions, and complete labs.

**Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices including (but not limited to) cell phones and music players (iPods, mp3) must be turned off and out of visual sight. The teacher will confiscate any device and will release the device at the end of the day to the principal. If the student refuses to surrender the device immediately, disciplinary action will be taken. There is NO difference in checking the time and texting.

**Grading**: Grading is based on mastery of curriculum objectives. Students will earn points from tests and homework assessments. These points will be accumulated to demonstrate mastery of the standard. Points are as follows:

A= Mastery 18-20 pts

Student has demonstrated a mastery of all vocabulary terms, diagrams, and processes. Student demonstrates understanding in a manner in which they can apply the knowledge.

B= B=Proficient 16-17 pts

Student has a good understanding of the vocabulary, diagrams, and processes. Student can recall the required information but lacks the ability to apply it.

C= Basic: 14-15 pts

Student has an understanding of many vocabulary terms, diagrams, and processes. Student can recall information when prompted by clues but student lacks the understanding to provide the full context of a subject

D= Below basic: 12-13 pts

Student has an understanding of some vocabulary terms, diagrams, and processes. Student can recall information when prompted by clues but student lacks the understanding to provide the full context of a subject

F= Unsatisfactory 11 pts or lower

Student is unable to describe the basic vocabulary, diagrams, and processes. Student does not demonstrate an understanding of the material.

Your grade is based on projects and tests. Each project and test is based on a biology state standard/objective. You will be given a rubric for each project and how points are earned. Each project will be worth 20 points.

**Formal Exams or tests:**

Breakdown:

- Each test will have 6 questions on the standard/objective. The first 2 questions missed is worth 2 points. Additional missed questions are worth 4 points each. Total 20 points.

Many of the test and homework questions will be in multiple choice format. This can present an all or none situation, where a student may understand part of the question or is not sure between two options. Students have the option to have a 2nd choice on the multiple choice tests. Students will mark their first choice on the answer sheet. The 2nd choice can be written on the back of the answer sheet. If a student chooses to do a 2nd choice, they need to have a detailed explanation of why they believe the answer could be both choices. If the student’s explanation does not contain a correct explanation, then the answer will be marked incorrect (Even if the first choice is correct)! If the 2nd choice is correct and the explanation is correct, credit or partial credit may be given. Students should only use the 2nd choice option if they can correctly explain their answer. It is not an option to use for every question.

Students who demonstrate a non-proficient understanding on tests can study and retest on any standard. The retest grade will replace the current grade. The retest questions are not the same, often they may be in essay form. Students are required to complete all classwork and study prior to be allowed to retest. An entrance ticket is required to retest. The entrance ticket is available upon request. Have your proof of completed work ready when you are ready to retest. If you do not have an entrance ticket or the proof of completion is not ready, you will not be able to retake the test.

Retesting is only during the teacher’s office hours. Office hours are posted in the back of the room. You will need to come in on your own time to retest. Do not expect the teacher to be available on your schedule. I am very busy during the week with meetings and responsibilities. While I do want to help a struggling student and help you improve your grade, I cannot meet your schedule. Please plan accordingly.

**Homework:** Students will receive work that is to be completed in class and outside of class. Many assignments will be online. Students need to submit these online using a website called canvas.instructure.com. If you would like a paper copy of an assignment, I have posted the “digital” copies of each assignment on walkersclass.com. Please feel free to print them out and complete them. Printed copies of the assignments are available upon request. You still need to answer the questions online though. **You** are responsible for tracking each assignment and turning it in on time. Assignments will be graded to provide feedback and practice for the student. Homework assignment grades will not be included in the final grade.

Assignments are designed to teach the state standards and provide opportunity for proficiency. If you choose not to do the work, do not be surprised if you “don’t get it”. Homework is like basketball practice before the game. If you don’t know how to dribble, shoot, or can’t figure out what the black lines on the court are for, you will not do well when it is game time. The tests are the games and they alone determine your grade in the class. Practice, practice, practice!

It is expected that each student understand WHY they responded to each homework question and they learn the concepts from each assignment. It is not enough just to DO the homework. The students are expected to UNDERSTAND and apply the work. Too often students are just focused on getting the answers on assignments. Students should not get a grade on how well they can copy and paste from friends or the internet. It is not good enough just to get the work done. Just getting the answers will not help your grade. Students who just get the answers and do not understand the material quickly find themselves with a very bad grade and a profoundly confusing look.

Late work is accepted and no penalty will be attached. It is strongly recommended that all work be completed and students study prior to the exams. The idea is to provide accurate grades on each required state standard of biology. Students and parents can quickly see what area the student needs to focus on and learn more.

Most students lack the understanding on how to study for a test. This is a very important skill for the college bound student. On the back of this paper is a guide on how to get an A in the class. This formula can work in most types of classes.

I will also have several categories in PowerSchool concerning citizenship grades. While they will inform parents the behavior of the student the score for each is not included in final grades. Parents can see what behavior is observed in class by looking at powerschool.

I agree to follow the rules of this class at ALL times:

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

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

Email for Parents: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I like to contact you whenever a test is coming up or when your student has done something great!

**How to get an A in Mr. Walkers class**

Step 1) Do your work. Really? do your own work. For each assignment, know why the answer you write down is the correct answer. If you just write an answer down, you may have completed the assignment but you have not learned the material on the assignment. BIG difference! You are graded on if you have learned the material on the assignments, not if they are completed. You can complete each assignment and still fail.

Kinda like riding in a car versus driving the car in a Drivers Ed class. You won't pass if you are not in the drivers seat.

Step 2) Study. Study the assignments, study the vocab, study your notes. Study doesn't mean read over. Study for very few people means read over. If you have had straight A's since preschool, you may be in this category. Study means write. Huh? Yes write. Make flash cards, rewrite notes, rewrite key vocab terms. Give yourself a written test of the material. Imagine if you were the teacher, what 10 essay questions would you put on the exam. Write out the questions and then write out the answers. Don't just say the answers or think you can answer them. Write them out! It may sound weird but your fingers will remember the answers when your brain forgets.

Step 3) Read the Chapter in the textbook. Try to answer the section questions. If you don't know them after you have read it. Reread the section. Take the assessment at the end of the chapter. How did you do?

Don't wait until the morning of or night before the exam to study. If you do, you will get the grade that reflects the efforts of someone who crams. (usually a D or C). I suggest that you start studying 1 week before the exam. If the exam is on Wednesday, start the previous Wednesday. Take 10-20 minutes to REWRITE all notes. On Thursday, make flash cards, Friday, go over assignments. Read and recheck answers on all assignments. What did you not understand when you completed this assignment? Identify weak points and write them down. Saturday and Sunday, reread your notes and go over flash cards/assignments. On Monday, read the chapter (use notes/assignments to find major topics), on Tuesday read all notes, vocab, and assignments again. On Wednesday, (the day of the exam) you will smoke the test! Don't skip or skimp on steps. Each is important!

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| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday/Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday  (Day of Test) |
| 1) Rewrite all notes | 1) Make flash cards of vocabulary and draw out all important diagrams | 1) Reread and redo all classwork assignments  2) Make a list of what doesn’t make sense | 1) Reread notes  2) Reread flashcards  3) Reread assignments  4) Go over list of confusing stuff | 1) Read the chapters on the exam.  2) Identify major topics  3) All confusing stuff needs to be understood. | 1) Reread / rewrite all notes  2) Reread / rewrite all vocabulary and diagrams  3) Reread / rewrite all assignments | Sit back and relax. You are ready. ☺ |