**Overview:** In their 9th grade year, the students take ecology, which covers topics relating to the environment, as well as how scientists study and preserve it. There will be some topics related to biology or life science as well. Throughout this course we will cover information on the following:

* Scientific method, lab safety, and measurement.
* Life cycles, cycles of matter.
* Evolution and how organisms change over time.
* The biosphere.
* Relationships between organisms in the environment.
* Relationships between organisms and the nonliving components of the environment.
* Populations and communities.
* The human impact on the environment.
* Terrestrial biomes.
* Aquatic biomes.

\*\*This is a tentative schedule, so some concepts may be covered in a different order than shown here. Other topics may be added and topics shown above may be omitted if it benefits the students\*\*

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. Students should arrive to class on time and prepared with the proper materials including:
   1. Writing utensil
   2. Binder with loose-leaf
   3. Chromebook
      1. Chromebook should have enough charge on it for class.
   4. Any completed homework assignments
2. Students are to show respect for their teacher and their classmates at all times. Violation of this may result in the student’s removal from the classroom and/or further consequences.
3. Students will abide by all classroom rules. These rules will be discussed on the first day please see below:
   1. Always do your best.
   2. Be respectful of the teacher and other students in the classroom.
   3. Respect the personal space and belongings of everyone in the classroom.
   4. Follow all lab safety rules, even when a lab isn’t going on.
   5. Listen when others are speaking.
   6. Read directions carefully.
   7. Leave your work area clean at the end of class.
   8. If you don’t understand something, ask questions.

**Bell Ringers:** All class periods will begin with a bell ringer question. Students are expected to copy down the question and answer it. Students will need to keep a running log of bell ringers to refer back to when studying for tests.

**Homework Assignments:** Homework assignments will be given to reinforce topics covered in class. Some assignments will be checked for completion and others will be checked for correctness rather than progress in understanding. However, all assignments are counted into the overall grade of the student. Homework is due at the beginning of the class period. If it is not turned in at that time it is considered late. Students are expected to come to my room that day to make up a missing homework assignment or turn in a misplaced assignment. Late work is the responsibility of the student and the teacher will not come to him or her to collect this work. Failure to complete assignments will result in lost points and possibly further consequences.

**Labs:** Labs will be conducted throughout the year. Students will work in partners or small groups to complete a task. Students will be responsible for following the scientific method and remaining on task in class. It is the responsibility of the student to complete as much of the lab as possible in the given number of class periods. Each lab will have analysis questions at the end that the students may be responsible for completing as a homework assignment. Labs are subject to the same late policy as homework assignments. Students missing a lab due to absence will need to see the teacher for further instructions.

**Quality of Work:** Students are always expected in each of their classes to show that they have put time an effort into their finished work. Work that is not done neatly, or is illegible, as determined by the teacher, will be returned to the student and the work will then be considered late and lose points according to the late policy.

**Projects:** For projects, students will receive a specific rubric and handout detailing the assignment with directions and requirements for completing the project. Students should carefully review these handouts to ensure all requirements are met.

**Absences and Late Work:** It is the responsibility of the student to inquire about work that he or she missed while absent upon their return to school. The student should see the teacher during an acceptable time on the first day back.

All late work is subject to the following deductions:

* A **placeholder grade of zero** will be entered in the gradebook.
  + Late work may be turned in for partial credit up to a point, this will be discussed at a later date.
* Further consequences may occur based on the handbook and school policies.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be assigned at the teacher’s discretion. Students will be notified of an upcoming quiz no less than **two days** in advance. There will **not** be an in-class review for quizzes unless explicitly stated otherwise by the teacher. Students should be reviewing and studying material covered in class each day.

**Tests:** Tests will be given at the end of each chapter/unit. Students should be reviewing and studying material covered in class **every day** so as not to fall behind or become overwhelmed when a test is announced. The students will be notified of an upcoming test ahead of time in order to have appropriate time to prepare. It is the responsibility of the student to be prepared to take the test **on the day** they return to school. The teacher will determine the best day and time for the student to make up the missed assessment.

**Chromebooks:** Each student will have a chromebook that has been issued to them through the school during the first couple weeks of school. These devices are expected to only be used for class-related activities. To that end, these are the expectations for science class concerning chromebooks:

* Students without a school issued Chromebook will need to make use of their notebook, or loose-leaf paper for all class activities.
  + Should a student run out of paper it is expected that they will get some from a friend until they can get more of their own paper.
* Students refusing to follow these guidelines will receive appropriate consequences based on the Erie High discipline policy.
* Students found using the chromebooks inappropriately during worktime will also be written up in accordance with this policy.

**Electronic Devices: From the handbook-**

Electronic devices include but are not limited to cell phones,earbuds, earphones, headphones, Beats, pods or chargers.

(Tied to PBIS class matrix expectations)

1. Cell phones are silent and away in the classroom
2. Students will receive PBIS points for putting their cell phone in the classroom pocket chart
3. Teachers will award PBIS points at the end of class to all students who keep their phones silent and away
4. If the student violates this policy

* ***First Violation***: Teacher will remind student of the cell phone expectation in the classroom
  + “Please remember that your cell phone needs to be silent and away in the classroom at all times.”
* ***Second Violation***: Teacher will issue a warning
  + “This is a warning that if you do not put your cell phone away, the next violation will result in confiscation by administration.

***Third Violation***: The phone will be confiscated\*. The parents/guardians will be notified and the phone will be returned at the end of the day.  The teacher will submit the referral in Infinite Campus. (Electronic Devices)

**Plagiarism:** Throughout the students’ English Language Arts studies they are introduced to the proper ways to research, report data, and create appropriate citations for their sources. Students should **never** copy another student’s work and should **never** have another person, student, adult, or otherwise complete their work for them. **Plagiarism, the purposeful or accidental appropriation of ideas or work from someone and passing them off as your own, will not be tolerated under any circumstances.** Students choosing to plagiarize their work will be subject to consequences as deemed fit by the school and/or principal via the discipline policy.

**Tips for Success in the Classroom**

I hold each of my students to high expectations. Below are some helpful tips to ensure success.

1. As information is discussed in class, students should take notes on key topics and ideas.
   1. If note taking is proving difficult students may see me for help or ideas in how to better organize their notes.
2. Students should read their textbook at home to review material covered in class.
3. Students should complete homework assignments on time and correctly to ensure they do not fall behind.
4. Students should thoroughly read all rubrics and carefully complete assignments.
5. Students should take a little time out each night to study for quizzes and tests. Some strategies include:
   1. Making flashcards for quick and easy review of vocabulary words.
   2. Reading and, or re-reading the textbook.
   3. Reviewing previous homework given for the chapter.
   4. Actively participating in class discussions, in-class work, and review sessions.

**Schoology:** One of the ways that I have made additional help available to the students is through Schoology. Here students can access notes, see homework assignments and access other helpful materials throughout the year.

**Contacting the Teacher:**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have during the school year. I will make sure to periodically check my email when class is not in session and return communications as quickly as possible. In your communications be sure to be respectful and explain your question or challenge thoroughly.

Please note that I will respond to communications in a timely manner, but this may take up to **24 hours** or longer, depending on when the email is received.

Please fill out completely and return ONLY this final page to the teacher. Students, put the rest of the syllabus in your science binder.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read the entire 9th grade

(Student’s printed name) syllabus .

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

(Student’s signature)

**NOTE: Please return this signed and complete page in class or on the next class day.**