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**Ecology Syllabus**

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Welcome to Ecology. This will be my first year teaching Ecology, and I am excited about the opportunity. Ecology will be an active course involving ample amounts of class time outside. The Cumberland Trail is conveniently located in the backyard of SMMHS’s campus. Having such easy access to the trail, our students will have a wonderful opportunity to be fully immersed in the ecology curriculum. I want this class to be all about the students. Students who most enjoy and benefit from my classes are those who are enthusiastic, motivated, work cooperatively with their groups, and have a positive attitude.

**Ecology topics:**

* Interdependence (man’s impact on the environment)
* Flow of Matter and Energy (biogeochemical pathways & impacts on ecosystems)
* Biodiversity and Change (measuring the health of ecosystems, local and globally)
* Taxonomy (classifying organisms)
* Populations (logistical & exponential growth curves)

**Grading**

* Tests and Assessments: 50%
* Teaching Tasks: 50%

**Make-up Work**:

* Make-up work is only for students who were absent on the date the work was assigned, not for students who did not do the work while in the classroom. According to Hamilton County, the maximum time allowed for make-up following an excused absence is 5 school days.
* Missing a class does not excuse you from doing the work. I will be communicating with the class through Managebac. Class assignments and PowerPoint notes will be posted on Managebac and school website. It is the **STUDENT’S** responsibility to keep up with assignments.
* Upon return to class after an absence, the **STUDENT** is responsible for getting work uploaded on Managebac and submitting the completed work within 5 days of the absence without being reminded.

**Supplies:**

\*A notebook (ASAP!!!!)

\*Three Ring Binder or Lump Folder to stay organized

\*Pen/pencil/paper every day

\*Optional (but helpful): colored pencils, highlighter, colored markers, ruler

**Daily Expectations to Be Successful in Ecology**

\* Be Respectful

\* Be On Time

\* Be Prepared

\* Follow Classroom Norms & Procedures

**Cell Phones/Electronic Devices**

As you may already know SMMHS is a pilot school for using ipads, smart phones, and other technological devices to enhance LEARNING. It is your child’s responsibility to read and understand SMMHS electronic policies. In terms of my class, we will be using devices frequently. However, if your child is using a device when he/she is not supposed to, an appropriate consequence will be given. For violations of electronic device policy refer to student handbook.

**Final Information About Ecology:**

We will be learning mostly through:

* Cooperative group work
* Projects
* Critical thinking activities
* The use of real-life skills
* Hands-on activities
* Unit Assessments and Quizzes