**Mrs. Morgan’s Living Environment**

**Course Description**

**Cell phone policy:** A recent student shows that children now spend an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes a day, or about 53 hours a week using media defined as (cell phones, video games, TV, and computers.(Kaiser, 2010). A growing body of research indicates that this nature disconnect is related to lower school achievement, lack of self-confidence, and many other social, emotional, intellectual and physical problems which author Richard Louve describes as “nature deficit disorder”. Cell phone use in particular has become an addiction one that I would like to help you break this year.

* At no time should I see or hear a phone in my room. No charging is allowed at any time.
* If you choose to participate there will be an extra credit award at the end of each quarter for participating in my cell phone free classroom program. **To participate you can put your phone in the technology parking lot box near the entrance at the beginning of class or better yet do not bring your devise to class at all.** You can earn 1pt for each week you participate for a total of 10 extra credit points for each quarter. If you choose to keep your phone in your bag or back pocket you will not get the extra credit points for that week.
* If your phone rings or vibrates during class or you are **caught using your phone or other devise during class it will be taken from you and you will get a -1 for each offence on your class average for the quarter**.

**Materials:** Med/Lg Binder for handouts & notes**,** Pens and PENCILS

**Grades**

**Each Unit: Lab activities, note packets, quizzes, and unit exam**

**Student Expectations:**

* Be responsible: Prepared and on time for class
  + You will be expected to **maintain a class binder** for handouts and notes. Note packets will be collected and graded at the end of each unit so it is very important to keep an up to date binder.
  + Notes can be in pen or pencil but we will be doing a lot of graphing this year and **PENCILS are a must for graphing**.
* Be respectful: When you go to work you have to deal with co-workers and customers. You will be working in different lab groups all the time and I will be assigning seats as needed. Learning how to work with others is as simple as **one rule: IF YOU CAN’T SAY ANYTHING NICE DON’T SAY ANYTHING AT ALL**. Everyone in this room has a different set of skills and challenges. Your job is to help each other with your challenges and share your skills. **Criticizing others and preventing other students from working will result in removal from the room, mandatory 10th and a disciplinary writeup.**
* Be safe: No horseplay in lab and check with me before starting any experiment

**Topics covered this year:**

* Lab skills and Experimental Design
  + Microscopes, measuring, converting units
  + Dichotomous keys
  + Density and measuring volume
  + Ball, ramp and graphing
* Biochemistry and biogeochemical cycling
* Ecology and environmental science
  + Interactions between living and nonliving factors in ecosystems
  + Human impacts on natural ecosystems
  + Sustainable development
* Cells, Life Functions, and Human Body Systems
* Genetics and biodiversity
  + Mendelian genetics
  + Structure and function of DNA
  + Genetic engineering
* Evolution and classification
* Reproduction
  + Sexual and asexual