



Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome back to a new school year at Park Slope Collegiate! This is a year-long science class based on living systems/biology. The end of this course culminates in the New York State Regents Exam in June 2026. ***This is an opportunity for the 8th grade students to achieve a high school credit upon reaching the passing standard of the NYS Biology Regents Exam.*** We will strive to communicate and support you throughout each day. Below are the expectations we have for our students, what they can expect from us, and the grading policy.

Year Long EQ: *How can we use evidence to identify patterns and functions in living systems?*

Curriculum: New Visions Biology Curriculum aligning with the NGSS

What can be expected of us:

- We will always strive for equity in our grading.
- The environment we promote is one that any question can be asked and will be explored together.
- Dates for exams, quizzes and labs will be given in advance.
- We will give a rubric or a grading schematic for the work we give so it is explicit what we require my students to produce.
- We will be respectful at all times.
- We will do our utmost to support our students during this time.

What we expect from our students:

- We expect students to attend class regularly and be on time.
- We expect students to reach out when they are in need of support or more time with assignments.
- They must be respectful to themselves and others.
- Students will be prepared for class.
- We will **NOT tolerate** bullying, sexual harassment, foul language or language that is demeaning to another. Our classroom is a safe zone for everyone and is a place for academic learning and exploration.
- We expect that students and parents/guardians will provide a note or e-mail and make-up the work when absent.

Supply List:

- Folder
- A notebook **OR** a binder with looseleaf
- Pen/pencil
- Highlighter

Grading policy:

- **45 % Exams and Projects**
 - Units will have either an exam at the end of that unit or a project. It will cover all that was learned in that unit.
- **10 % Quizzes**
 - These will tend to be on Thursdays. If students are studying daily, they will be successful in engaging with these quizzes.
- **30% Classwork & Homework**
 - Classwork must be completed to the best of each student's ability and will be collected at the end of the class. **Use the classroom time wisely.**
- **15% class participation**
 - This is about demonstrating engagement and students advocating for themselves as we navigate this year. Students are expected to engage with the work and lessons each day that they have class.
- A minimum of 25 lab credits are needed to pass this class and take the regents in June 2025. (This is subject to change as we progress through this year)
 - **The 3 state labs must be a part of the 25 lab credits.**

Remember to do your best, and the most important aspect that will get us through is communication. We are listing our emails below.

Sincerely,

Mr. C

Jchrist5@schools.nyc.gov

Ms. Kechaiche

NKechaiche@schools.nyc.gov

Please sign this agreement indicating that you and your child have read and understand the course expectations and return the page below! Due by Wednesday, September 10th

Student's name: _____

Student's signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____

Parent/Guardian contact information: _____

Parent/Guardian's Preferred Form of Contact (please circle below):

- Phone call
 - Times that are best: _____
- Text
- E-mail
 - List e-mail here: _____