

## Living Environment: Biology

Science Department  
Schenectady City Schools  
1445 The Plaza  
Schenectady, New York 12308  
(518) 370-8190

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Science Department is committed to the success of Schenectady High School students and high achievement on the New York State Living Environment Regents Examination. Critical to understanding science concepts is the use of scientific inquiry to develop explanations of natural phenomenon in a laboratory setting. Therefore, as a pre-requisite for admission to the Regents examination, students are required to satisfactorily complete a minimum 1200 minutes of laboratory experience.

Unfortunately, each June, we have students who lose the opportunity to take the Regents Exam because of their failure to fulfill the lab requirement. In order to be eligible to take the Regents Exam students must meet the following criteria:

1. Students must be present for and actively participate in 1200 minutes worth of lab time. This means that **ATTENDANCE IS CRUCIAL** and missing lab classes will negatively impact student success.
2. **ALL** required labs must be completed to a passing standard according to your lab teacher. There will be more than 1200 minutes of labs offered because of the skills and knowledge provided by those activities. **ALL STATE LABS MUST BE DONE—NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Further information of interest includes:

1. In the event of **UNAVOIDABLE (LEGAL) ABSENCES**, make up sessions will be offered at the discretion of the individual lab teacher. Remember, labs must be completed in a laboratory setting and attendance at school is critical.
2. You can be of great assistance to your child and his/her teacher by consistently monitoring their progress in lab and class. You may call the science department at 370-8217 or call the main office at 370-8190 and leave a message for a specific teacher.

It is our hope that with your continued support your child will have an enriching and successful year in science.

Sincerely,

Gary Putnam  
Science Coordinator

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **(please print clearly)**