

Welcome to Environmental Science

We both are very excited to get to know all of you and am eager to work with you through what should be a very unique school year. Please read this document carefully and contact me with any questions.

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Virtual Classroom in Microsoft Teams. Parents encouraged to preview often (have your child sign in). Also check Infinite Campus for grades and updates.

Course Overview

The AP Course follows the guidelines and topics as outlined by *The College Board* framework. Students who are interested in the AP track of this course will be required to register for the additional enrichment class. Both the NGSS NV Academic Content Science Standards and the AP Course framework focus on Scientific Practices. These are distinct skills that students should practice throughout the year—skills that will help them learn to think and act like environmental scientists.

These are habits of mind that help you learn how to engage in the scientific process. They include: developing and refining questions and models, plan and carry out investigations, analyzing data, using math and computational thinking, argue from evidence, and effectively communication.

These are broken down in the next section for the AP Course.



Framework

Unit 1: The Living World: Ecosystems

Unit 2: The Living World: Biodiversity

Unit 3: Populations

Unit 4: Earth Systems and Resources

Unit 5: Land and Water Use

Unit 6: Energy Resources and Consumption

Unit 7: Atmospheric Pollution

Unit 8: Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution

Unit 9: Global Change

Science Practices

Concept Explanation- Explain environmental concepts, processes, and models presented in written format

Visual Representations- Analyze visual representations of environmental concepts and processes

Text Analysis- Analyze sources of information about environmental issues

Scientific Experiments- Analyze research studies that test environmental principles

Data Analysis- Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, and graphs

Mathematical Routines- Apply quantitative methods to address environmental concepts

Environmental Solutions- Propose and justify solutions to environmental problems

Supplies: composition notebook- 1 per semester. Colored pencils, whiteboard markers (1-2). Post-it notes.

AP vs. Env. Sci

Both classes cover the same standards and topics as shared on page 1 of the syllabus. However, the students who will be AP testing will go into more depth on topics and will be required to attend the daily enrichment class.

Labs/Projects

You will be assigned some labs and projects each term that pertain to our unit of study. You will be given detailed instructions as well as a grading rubric at the beginning of each lab/project. Some labs you will design yourself. These will look different this year, but we will try digital versions if possible.

Sense Making Journals

You will be responsible for maintaining a sense making journal (small comp notebook (graph)). This is where you will create diagrams, models, etc. from lectures, readings, and other activities. This is ongoing and checks will be announced. To turn in, you will use Microsoft Lens to digitally scan.

Types of Learning Activities

Weekly Lesson Sets

Each week a new lesson set will be loaded into your OneNote Class Notebook. These activity sets contain a variety of activities such as interactive reading, online simulations, practice quizzes, interactive lectures and activities and/or individual projects. If you are hybrid, you will complete most of these activities in class. If you are 100% online you will complete them at home. All activities in the lesson will have clearly defined due dates. Students must indicate completion in Teams > Assignments by the due date.

Expectations

1. Be on time for class and be prepared, ready to learn. Follow all lab safety rules and guidelines.
2. Do your best and take pride in your work.
3. Be a team player. Group projects require shared responsibility and collaboration. Be kind.
4. Make up work missed due to absence. It is **your** responsibility to get the work you missed. All work is available via Microsoft Teams in the Class Notebook.
5. You are expected to make your work **original**. Any scholastic dishonesty, or “cheating” will result in a **zero** for the assignment.

Assessments- Show what you know!

Assessments will be given periodically. At the conclusion of a unit, there will be a larger summative assessment. Assessments may be quiz, test, or project-based.

Group Learning

There will be collaborative learning/ small group work. You will be expected to contribute to the overall work of the team. Teamwork = shared responsibility. This will be achieved digitally for social distancing.

Book: we will issue a textbook to each student. Reading assignments will be assigned via weekly task sets.

Technology

For those who are hybrid schedule, we ask that *if* you are able and willing to bring your personal digital learning device, (etc. laptop) with you to school to please do so. Due to social distancing, we will rely heavily on digital devices for simulations and interactivity among the class. This will ensure sharing is minimized, although all school laptops will be sanitized.

Digital Learning Platform

MS Teams

Microsoft Teams is the WCSD adopted digital platform. Students can use Teams to:

- Turn in activities and assignments
- Participate in digital discussions
- Ask questions and help in “questions forum”
- Access the OneNote class notebook where weekly activity sets will be housed.
- Take notes in their OneNote digital notebook

Grading

Grading is based on total points earned divided by total points possible. 10 point scale, (90 above = A. etc)

Remote vs. Hybrid

1. The remote and hybrid learning environments will **have the same expectations**. The only difference is that remote will be completing all requirements online. Announcements regarding live online sessions for remote learners will be posted in Teams > Channels > Virtual Learners Only.
2. All online activity requires students to adhere to norms and proper digital citizenship. Be kind. Be respectful. Stay on topic and keep communication academic and school related.
3. Some of the activities may “look” different for distance learners (ex: a face to face activity will be converted to digital).
4. Technology will be used in both hybrid and remote learning. It is imperative that you contact the office if you need to check out a laptop or have concerns about wifi connectivity.

Technology Set Up

Personal devices (laptops, desktops, and mobile devices) are able to download the Microsoft Suite for free using your washoeschools student account. This suite contains everything you need for our class- Teams, OneNote, Word, Powerpoint, Excel and more. To see video demonstrations of how to download and access these tools, please look in MS Teams > Class Notebook > Week 1. I also have a playlist on Youtube that can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/lediaryoutube>

Late work etc.

We expect work to be turned in by the due date, as this is best for the learning experience (concepts build on each other). However, if something happens (as it often does in life), please just communicate to us that it will be late. If it is habitual then we will revisit one-on-one.