Course Title: Environmental Science

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Course Description: The Environmental Science curriculum is designed to extend student investigations that began in grades K-8. It integrates the study of many components of our environment, including the human impact on our planet. The concepts integrated into this course include: flow of energy & cycling of matter, interconnection of all life, stability and change in an ecosystem, conservation and resource allocation, and evaluation of human activity and technology.

Standards: Course Standards can be found at www.georgiastandards.org or you can also find a link on the Forsyth County Schools website.

Units of Study: Units are based on the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) at www.gadoe.org and will follow the general order listed below (although topics may be moved around as needed).

Unit 1 – What is Environmental Science? – Chapters 1-3
Unit 2 – Ecology – Chapters 4-7
Unit 3 – Populations – Chapters 8-10

*Midterms*
Unit 4 – Water - Chapter11
Unit 5 – Air & Climate – Chapters 12 & 13
Unit 6 – Land & Food – Chapters 14 & 15
Unit 7 – Energy & Waste – Chapters 16-19
Unit 8 – Human Impact on the Earth – Chapters 20 & 21

*Final*
Learning Resources/Textbook(s):
With the emergence of technology as a tool for learning, South Forsyth High School will be utilizing various resources to assist with instruction, including itslearning, online textbooks, and interactive websites. In addition to these web based instructional tools, this course will also have a classroom set of textbooks. Should you feel that your child would benefit from having a textbook at home in addition to the classroom textbook, please contact your child’s teacher.

Arms, Karen. Environmental Science, 2008. Holt, Reinhart, Winston. Should the student lose the text, they will be charged $69.85 for a new text.

Course Materials: Pens, pencils, colored pencils, paper, 2” 3-ring binder with dividers, loose leaf paper, composition notebook, note cards, and a highlighter. A basic calculator and portable USB drive to use to save work done in or out of class would also be useful.

Required Assignments: There will be at least 5 unit tests during the course as well as various performance based assessments that require writing, research, and creativity. The number of formative grades such as lab reports, article abstracts, quizzes, homework, journals, daily bell work, etc. will be determined along the course of the school year.

Availability for Extra Help:
I am available during IF/Advisement in addition to mornings or afternoons by appointment. My planning periods are 1st and 3rd.

Makeup Work: All missed work and assessments are the responsibility of the student when they are absent from school. A student who is absent on the class day before a regularly scheduled assessment will be responsible for completing the assignment on the regularly scheduled day and time. Students who have been absent more than two consecutive days (including the assessment day) will be given five (5) school days to make up the assessment and/or other assignments. This does not include major projects, research papers, etc., where the deadline has been posted in advance. It is the student’s responsibility to see the teacher before, or after, class to request or submit late assignments when absent. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period of time to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances.

Long-term projects must be turned in on the previously scheduled date. If a student is absent on that day, they must turn in the project the day they return to receive full credit. For every day late thereafter, their highest possible grade will be a 70. A course calendar and any handouts given out in class will be posted on itslearning. We will also utilize itslearning as a communication resource. Below is the website where these resources can be found: http://forsyth.itslearning.com

Late daily assignments can be turned in for a possible grade of a 70 until the summative test on that unit. Once that unit test is over, no daily (formative) assessments will be accepted!
**Academic Honesty** – According to the Forsyth County Schools Code of Conduct, cheating, plagiarism, altering records, or other fraudulent acts on school assignments, exams, records, or college entrance examinations may result in loss of privileges, counseling, detention, parent contact, ISS, and/or OSS. Any incidents of this nature will be treated seriously in this class and will result in a grade of zero, detention, and parent contact.

**Grading Calculations:**
Course Average = 50% (1\textsuperscript{ST} Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2\textsuperscript{ND} Sem. Course Work)

1\textsuperscript{ST} & 2\textsuperscript{ND} Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative
Concept of formative assessment:  [http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=8&n=9](http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=8&n=9)

**Grading Policy:**
A = 90 – 100  
B = 80 – 89  
C = 70 – 79  
Failing = Below 70

*Formative grades* are assignments such as homework, class work, quizzes, drafts or portions of essays, projects, research papers, and presentations. They provide practice while learning. These assignments, observations, and conversations are used to inform both the teacher and student about the learning process and lead to potential success on summative assessments. They count as 25% of each semester average.

*Summative grades* are assignments/assessments such as unit tests, projects, essays, research papers, and presentations which may integrate multiple standards. These grades reflect student mastery of standards after the learning activity is completed and count as 75% of each semester average.

*Work Habits* are behaviors that have the potential to increase academic achievement, promote lifelong learning, and foster personal accountability. (Grading Scale 1-3. 
2=SUCCESSFUL!)

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**Middle and High School Work Habit Categories and Scoring**

1: Does not meet  
2: Meets  
3: Exceeds

**Responsibility (RE)**
The student adapts to classroom practices.

1. Requires frequent redirection; strays off-task; disrupts learning environment; fails to follow class procedures.
2. Is a self-starter; remains on-task; asks questions for clarifications when needed; applies strategies for meeting learning goals; follows class procedures.
3. Displays independent initiative; maximizes opportunities; solves problems.
Participation (PA)
The student pursues learning through active involvement.
1. Disengages from the learning environment; responds only to teacher prompts.
2. Engages in activities and discussions.
3. Leads others to participate; explores new class ideas and approaches.

Assignment Completion (AC)
The student completes work by the designated time/date and according to directions.
1. Fails to complete assignments or submit work; struggles to follow directions.
2. Produces completed work on a consistent basis by the designated time/date; follows directions.
3. Demonstrates new applications and examples of standard; exceeds assignment expectations; extends personal learning.

Interpersonal Skills (IS)
The student interacts with others to create a positive learning environment.
1. Lacks flexibility when working with peers; isolates self.
2. Works well with peers; listens and speaks respectfully; questions ideas rather than the person.
3. Adjusts to a variety of classroom roles; mediates; influences others to learn.

Exam Exemptions:
Any student desiring to exempt their final exam must have a 90 overall average in their semester, or yearlong course to exempt the final exam in that course. End-of-Course Tests cannot be exempt.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR:
This classroom is a place of learning and will be treated as such. You are expected to follow the rules of the classroom in addition to the rules of the county and school.

1. Respect yourself and others!
2. Be on time!
3. Be prepared!
4. Only Water is permitted!
5. Keep classroom clean!
6. Obey all school rules!

Failure to adhere to these rules will result in the following consequences:

1. Warning
2. 15 minute detention before or after school
3. 30 minute detention & parent contact (phone or email)
4. Administrative referral

***Major violations, especially those where students can be harmed, will be cause for immediate administrative referral and removal from class. ***