

AP Environmental Science

GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

PLEASE JOIN GOOGLE

CLASSROOM:

6th Hour – s2kuryt

Mrs. Sarah Hall

Rm. 23

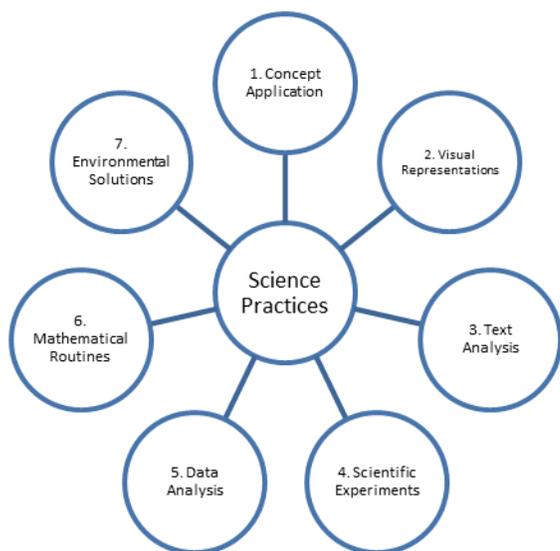
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Welcome to my classroom! I'm excited to start a new school year and get to know all of you.

AP Environmental Science is a rigorous, inter-disciplinary course that focuses on developing scientific skills using various science practices to help students understand the interrelationships of the natural world, identify and analyze causes for and risks associated with natural and human-made environmental problems, and examine the alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them.



CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

1. Be on time to class and come prepared.

- You should be in the classroom and in your seat before the tardy bell rings, so that the class may get started promptly. If you have an excused tardy, please bring a note from the office or teacher you came from. All other tardies will be considered unexcused.
- You should bring your pen, pencil, binder, calculator, and chrome book to class daily.

2. Turn in assignments on time.

- Homework, labs, or projects not handed in (at the beginning of class) on the day they're due are late. A penalty of 10% will be deducted from all late work.
- All assignments should be turned into the inbox, including late assignments. Please write "LATE" or "EXCUSED ABSENCE" at the top of assignments turned in past their due date.
- If you are absent, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to:
 - check the website (hallsb.mtnhomesd.org)
 - collect all make-up work prior to leaving or once you return
 - turn in the assignment in a timely manner. (For every excused day of absence, you have 2 days to complete the assignment).

3. Be respectful.

- Treat others as you would wish to be treated. Respect your classmates' and teacher's feelings, insights, and opinions.
- Don't use things without permission (like the computer or laboratory equipment).

- c. Don't vandalize textbooks or desks and dispose of all trash properly.
- d. Cheating is unacceptable and will result in a zero for the assignment, test, etc.

4. Follow all laboratory and school rules.

- a. Food, drinks, and gum are NOT allowed during lab; however, they are acceptable during class instruction and individual work time if they are non-disruptive and cleaned up after.
- b. During individual work time, MP3 players and cell phones may be used to listen to music; however, they should be put away all other times. No electronic devices are allowed during testing. Chrome books will be required at various points during the week and should be brought to class daily. Students are expected to use the devices for schoolwork and not games or other distractions.

GRADING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

GRADING:

The following percentages indicate how your grade will be calculated each quarter:

Chapter Tests and FRQs– 60%

Labs/Projects/Other Assignments/Quizzes/Note Checks – 40%

Grades can be accessed anytime on the PowerSchool website.

TEXTBOOKS:

We will be receiving new AP Environmental Science books this year. Since the majority of your homework will include reading assignments and personal notes, it would be in your best interest to take your textbook home and keep it there (unless asked to bring it into class).

QUIZZES:

There will be quizzes after each reading assignment. These are open-note, open-book, but will be difficult to answer in the time provided if you have not done the reading assignment.

CURRENT EVENTS:

Once a quarter, you will be required to find a scientific article published no earlier than January 1st, 2018 that covers an environmentally focused “current” event. The writers of the AP exam often pull data sets and generate questions from these types of current events. Websites with encyclopedia or blog-style entries (like “Science Daily”) will not be accepted because they are already summaries of more rigorous texts. You will then need to handwrite in PEN a 6 sentence summary (factual, not opinion-based) and 4 sentence reflection (opinion based) on that current event.

LABS:

Students will be required to complete and sign a lab safety form prior to participating in any labs. Violation of lab safety rules will result in a zero for the lab. Once a quarter, students will complete a formal hand-written lab report. This assignment will likely be done in class.

SATURDAY SESSIONS:

Our new AP Environmental Science class is being funded through a grant from the National Math and Science Institute (NMSI). They will be partnering with us this year to offer several Saturday study sessions. It is in your best interest to attend to help maximize your score on the AP Exam.

CHAPTER TESTS:

Tests will be given approximately every 2 to 3 weeks. Tests will include mainly multiple-choice questions, which will increase in number as the school year progresses. The goal is that our tests will mimic the AP exam more and more as we near the AP exam date in May. Since tests (and FRQs) count for 60% of each quarter's grade, it is very important to prepare for these tests by completing the reading assignments and personal notes at home, in addition to studying. Questions about our labs will also be incorporated onto each test.

FREE RESPONSE QUESTIONS (FRQs)

Every other Friday, I will provide you with a multiple-part short answer style question called a "Free Response Question" or FRQ. You will be given 22 minutes to complete the FRQ in PEN only. We will grade these in class via a scoring rubric and at least once a month, I will also grade your FRQ. On the AP exam given in May, you will be given 3 FRQs to complete in a set amount of time – one of which will be heavily math-based.

FINAL EXAM:

Please make sure to save all of your notes, assignments, AND labs to study for the AP exam. The AP exam has changed greatly this year and now only includes 80 multiple choice questions and 3 FRQs. It will be given on Monday, May 11th in the afternoon at no cost to you. Everyone who takes this course is expected to take the AP exam on May 11th. There will be additional comprehensive exams at the end of each semester, but they will count as a regular test score. Our district requires these exams (in addition to pre-tests) to show academic growth.

LAB SAFETY

GENERAL MOVEMENT:

1. No horseplay. (Yes, shoving is horseplay.)
2. No practical jokes or pranks.

DRESS CODE:

1. To protect your eyes from possible injury, always wear safety goggles when working with heat, chemicals or glassware (except microscope work).
2. Tie back long hair and loose clothing and remove jewelry when you work at the lab station. Roll up loose sleeves that might fall into chemicals or become caught on equipment.
3. Do not wear open-toed shoes or sandals in the lab when using glassware or chemicals.

PERFORMING AN EXPERIMENT:

1. Keep your lab work area clear of any materials that are not needed for performing the experiment. Texts, notebooks, bookbags, sweaters and other materials should be stored away from the work area. Push in chairs when not in use and as you leave the lab area.
2. Handle all equipment as directed. Note safety precautions in the instructions for your experiments.

3. Handle all sharp instruments with extreme care. Never try to catch falling sharp instruments. "Dueling" with sharp instruments will earn you a zero for the lab.
4. Do not stir solutions with a thermometer; use a glass stirring rod. If a thermometer breaks, inform your teacher and she will clean it up.
5. Avoid spills in the lab. Report all spills immediately and follow your teacher's directions for cleaning them up. Keep your lab area neat and clean.
6. When working with heat, use tongs or a clamp to pick up hot containers. Test the temperatures of equipment and containers that have been heated by placing the back of your hand near any object before picking it up. If you can feel heat, the object might be too hot to handle.
7. Dispose of materials only as directed. Do not pour chemicals or other solids into a sink or put specimens or their parts into the trash or sink.
8. After you have completed your work, turn off all equipment and clean your work area. Return all equipment and materials to the place that you got them. Report any broken or missing equipment.
9. Keep hands away from your face, eyes, mouth and body while using chemicals or preserved specimens. Wash your hands before and after each experiment.
10. Never eat, drink, or chew gum in the lab. Never eat or drink from lab equipment.
11. Do not wander around the room, distract other students, or interfere with the laboratory experiments of others.
12. Perform only those experiments authorized by your teacher.

FIRST AID OR EMERGENCIES:

1. Report any accident to your teacher immediately, no matter how minor the accident might seem. Follow your teacher's recommendations for further treatment.
2. Report all fires to your teacher at once. Do not try to put out a fire by yourself. If a person's clothing or hair are on fire, smother the fire with the fire blanket in the corner or with the water faucets.
3. Know the locations of the fire extinguisher, eyewash, first aid kit, and other safety equipment.
4. Know the shortest exit route from the lab, from the corridor, and from the building.

HANDLING CHEMICALS:

1. Read the labels on chemical containers twice. Many chemicals look alike. Label and date all containers into which you put materials. (This is very important!!)
2. Do not touch, taste, or smell chemicals unless directed to by your teacher. Waft fumes toward your nose by waving your hand over the mouth of the container if directed to smell a chemical.
3. To avoid the contamination of chemicals, take only what you need, and do not return unused chemicals to the bottle. Dispose of chemicals only as directed by your teacher.
4. Do not use your mouth to draw liquids into a pipette; use a pipette bulb.
5. Never point the open end of a heated test tube toward yourself or anyone else.

HANDLING GLASSWARE:

1. Do not use cracked, chipped, scored, or badly scratched glassware.
2. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Tell your teacher and let your teacher clean up broken glass.
3. Allow plenty of time for hot glass to cool before touching it. It shows no visible signs of its temperature and can cause painful burns.
4. Learn the names of the equipment and glassware you use so there is no misunderstanding.

HANDLING LIVING ORGANISMS:

1. Treat all microorganisms as if they were harmful. Use antiseptic procedures, as directed by your teacher, when working with microbes. Dispose of microbes as your teacher directs.
2. Treat living organisms carefully. Do not cause pain, discomfort, or injury to an organism. Follow your teacher's directions when handling animals. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling animals or their cages.

You and one of your parents (or guardians) should sign this paper showing that you (and your parent/guardian) have seen and understand the guidelines and expectations for my classroom, as well as grading policies and procedures (including lab safety) that I will use throughout the year.

I _____ have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this contract. I realize that I must obey these rules to ensure my own safety and that of my fellow students and instructor. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the instructor. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the laboratory or misbehavior on my part, may result in being removed from the laboratory, detention, receiving a failing grade, and/or dismissal from the course. I have also read and understand the guidelines/expectations and the grading policies/procedures that I will be held accountable for in the classroom. I agree to comply with all three and will contact the teacher should I have any questions or concerns.

Signature of Student

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Please read the syllabus provided. No student will be permitted to perform laboratory activities unless this contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher.

Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read and understand the guidelines and expectations, the grading policies and procedures, and the lab safety requirements that your child will be held accountable for in the classroom. And that you agree to support all three and will contact the teacher should you have any questions or concerns.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Additional Questions:

Does your child wear contact lenses? ____ Yes ____ No

Is your child color blind? ____ Yes ____ No

Does your child have any allergies that I should be aware of? ____ Yes ____ No

Allergies: _____