

AP Environmental Science

Mr. Joe Kelly

Room K07

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Prep Periods: 3 and 7

Phone: 386-4500, ext. 4600

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Physical Science and Biology. Students will be most successful if they completed chemistry or are currently enrolled in chemistry.

This application oriented course provides students with opportunities to put knowledge and processes to work.

Topics of Study:

Semester I: First semester is dedicated to a comprehensive study of Indian Creek behind the school. We will use part of the “Stream Scene” and “Salmon Watch” curriculum and will study many aspects of Indian Creek. You will work in small groups and will give an oral presentation and written report at the end of the semester. AP Environmental Science text chapters 1-14; AP Biology text chapters 3, 10, 50-55.

Semester II: The second semester covers many topics that are eligible content for the AP Environmental Science exam in May. We will continue to use Indian Creek as a field site and will focus on sustainable solutions to local, regional, and global environmental challenges. AP Environmental Science text Chapters 15-24. AP Biology text chapters 29, 30, 51-55.

Texts and Materials: Environment: the science behind the stories. 6th ed. AP ed. Withgott and Laposata. (\$150); Biology – AP Edition. Campbell, Reece (\$120); *The Stream Scene – Watersheds, Wildlife and People*. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; *Salmon Watch*. World Salmon Council; *Student Watershed Research Project: A Manual of field and Lab Procedures*. Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology;

Expectations:

We expect you to be responsible and respectful. You will be successful in AP Environmental Science if you meet the following expectations:

1. **Be here!** Attendance is job #1!!! If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get any missed assignments and information from that absence. Your group members are counting on you!
2. **Be curious!** Curiosity is the *fuel* of science.
3. **Be prepared!** You need a 3-ring binder, paper, text, and pen or pencil every day. Your own set of colored pencils and note cards would also be good to have on hand. You need appropriate clothing including socks for wearing rubber boots to the stream. You should also have long pants, long sleeved shirts with collars at the neck, and closed toed shoes.
4. **Be respectful!** Count on me to respond directly and respectfully to inappropriate behavior. If you have concerns, please talk with me privately, or with other staff. This is your school- don't hesitate to speak up.
5. **Be your best!** Do the work in class; do the homework; do the work on time. PLEASE, ask me for any help at any time. I am here to help you before/after school when you are sincere about your desire to better yourself and your learning.

Guidelines:

1. Cell phones, i-Pods, or other electronic devices used inappropriately during class will be turned in to the front office for parents to pick up. No warning, no second chance.
2. Tardy #4 = 20 min. detention with me. Office referral for every tardy after #4.
3. You may eat/drink if it is not disruptive.

GRADING SCALE

Semester grades are weighted 60% on test performance and 40% on lab reports and class work. Grades are not rounded. Grades are computed on a percentage scale based on quality of work and responsibility as follows:

90-100%	Quality of work Exceeds expectations
A	Demonstrates excellent understanding of concepts and information Work is completed on or before due date
80-89%	Work is generally above average quality
B	Demonstrates understanding of most information Work is completed on or before due date
70-79%	Acceptable, average quality work
C	Knowledge and understanding still developing Work completed on or before due date
60-69%	Quality of work generally needs much improvement or incomplete
D	Little evidence of understanding Work completed on or after due date

Late Work

To receive full credit for the quality of your class work, it must be completed on or before the due date. Some work may be accepted when turned in late, but you may receive up to a 50% penalty off the score you would have earned.

Academic Honesty

Students will do many group projects, but their work must demonstrate their individual effort. There is no tolerance for plagiarism.

Extra Credit

Each student will be given an opportunity for up to 20 pts. extra credit each semester. Please see Ecology extra credit opportunities sheet.

Equipment

You are responsible for the equipment assigned to your group. You will have to **pay for lost or damaged equipment if due to your negligence**. This includes broken thermometers!!!

Progress Reports

Students and parents can view grades on HAC. Progress reports will be given when quarter grades are given. Quarter grades are mid-point advisory grades. Semester grades are final and will be posted to your transcript.

AP/College Credit

Students will be strongly encouraged and supported to take the AP Environmental Science exam in May. Successful completion of AP Environmental Science will also help students prepare for the AP Biology exam. Students who have taken both AP Environmental Science and Honors Medical Biology will have an advantage in passing the AP Biology exam. Students may earn a semester of college credit by completing AP Environmental Science and scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on the exam. However, some colleges/universities only grant credit for 4's and 5's. Additionally, many colleges/universities require science majors take first year science courses even if they passed the AP Environmental Science exam and earned credit.

I am looking forward to a great year with you in AP Environmental Science.

Mr. Kelly

Student and Parent signature: _____