**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COURSE SYLLABUS**

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***Course Description:*** Environmental science is an important field of study that includes aspects of biology, ecology, conservation, and more. Throughout this course students will look at science as a way to solve environmental problems. Students will develop an appreciation for the environment and for the people who have made contributions to the field.

***Projects:*** Environmental science is a discipline that requires action. Therefore this is a project based course. A large majority of the assessments given in this course will be projects rather than tests. Students should be prepared to work hard, to think hard, and to struggle to gain an A in this course.

***Classroom Habits:*** Rather than focusing on rules we will work towards instilling seven positive habits throughout the year. A copy of these habits will be sent home with students.

***Grading Scale:*** *100%-90% = A 89%-80% = B 79%-70% = C 69%-60% = D Below 60% = E*

***Grading Policy:***

40% Assessments. Assessments include tests, quizzes, and any projects/presentations. All tests will be announced ahead of time but I reserve the right to give quizzes unannounced*.*

35% Assignments. This category includes classwork and homework.

25% Participation. The majority of the participation grade comes from completion of the daily objectives/bell work/conclusion assignments. This will be explained in full detail to students during the first week.

***Text:*** Arms, Karen. (2008) Environmental Science. Holt, Rinehart and Winston

In most cases it will not be necessary for students to keep a copy of the text at home. We have classroom copies of the books that the students will use during class time. If students need a book to finish an assignment they will have the option to sign one out.

***Notebooks/Organization:*** I expect students to remain organized. I recommend keeping all returned assignments *at least* until the end of the marking period. Keep all tests and quizzes until the end of the year. The two most traditional methods are a spiral notebook and a folder or a 3 ring binder. Students have the freedom to choose their preferred method of organization.

***Lateness:*** Students are marked late if they are not in their seats by the time the bell rings. Yes, that means that if you are walking in the door or standing by a friend’s desk when the bell rings you will be marked late. After the 3rd lateness students will be given a lunch detention to make up for time missed. I will also follow any additional lateness rules set forth in the student handbook. Referrals will be given if lateness is a chronic problem.

***Absences:*** Attendance correlates directly with student success. Missed work will be provided upon return but material will not be retaught.

***Late Work:*** Late work will be accepted for ½ credit up until a cutoff date about one week before the end of a marking term. I will announce this cutoff date in advance.

***Academic Integrity:*** I will follow all rules/consequences set forth in the student handbook.

***Multiple Opportunities:*** Students will be given ample opportunities for success in this class, however, this is not an easy class! I recommend taking 5 to 10 minutes *every night* to review and study notes from that day’s lesson. Come to class the next day with any questions. This will be the single most helpful study habit a student can form to help them be successful in high school and college studies.