**AP - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

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Hillcrest High School

Building Excellence, One Patriot at a Time

Mr. Lucas McDonald - lmcdonald@tcss.net

Welcome to APES! This class will look at many topics in Environmental Science. We will cover major environmental topics such as acid rain, biodiversity, and global warming, as well as, energy, the atmosphere, water, soil, human populations and waste. Because this course is Environmental SCIENCE and not Environmental Studies, it will have a large laboratory and field investigation component. This allows students to learn about the environment through first hand observation. Many times we will be going off campus for our studies. It is my hope that you will come out of the class with a better understanding and appreciation for the world around you.

**COLLEGE BOARD AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-environmental-science/course-details

**Course Requirements**:

Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher and your school administrators.

Be on time every day. This means in your desk with supplies when the bell rings.

Bring all materials to class each day and be ready to learn.

Follow all laboratory safety rules and never eat, drink, or chew gum during class. Remember this is a science laboratory.

Don’t leave the room without my permission. Go to the restroom before you get to class.

Follow all school rules.

Students will be required to get their notes and some assignments at my homework page on the hillcrest website. **hillcresthigh.tcss.net**

Students will be allowed to use technological devices in some cases during class.

**Technological devices that are out and not authorized by the teacher will be taken up and sent to the office. The student will receive a discipline referral.**

**Attendance**: Attendance is critical to your success in school. Students who miss school due to illness may make arrangements to make up missed work within two days (per day absent) of their return from an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule make up work at a time convenient to both the student and the teacher. Students who miss class due to school functions such as ball games, club activities, field trips, class meetings, etc. are responsible for getting their assignments in **before** their absence. Students who have unexcused absences will **not** be allowed to make up work and they will receive a zero.

**Required Materials:**

* 3-ring binder with pocketed dividers (Devote 1 section to lab work)
* ***College rule,*** loose leaf notebook paper
* Pencils with erasers
* Subject dividers, get organized!
* Graph paper
* Black ink pens
* Access to the internet & a word processor

**Grades** will be based on a point system. Students will receive points for homework, class work, laboratory reports, portfolios, projects, quizzed, research papers, and tests. The percentage grade will be determined by dividing total points by the points possible. All students are expected to know their grade at all times. (The following are approximate values)

Exams (unit tests, collections, major projects, etc.)   65%  
Lab Reports, lab tests & lab practicals        20%  
Daily work, abstracts, quizzes, etc.                            15%

A mock AP Exam will be given as the final in April. It will count as 20% of the final grade in the course. If it is not taken the students will receive a 0 and not get the weighted credit for the course. AP courses are not subject to the TCSS exemption policy. **Honor Code**: Don’t cheat or you will get a zero, written up and I will call you parents.

**AP Exam Preparation**:

All students are required to take the Advanced Placement test given in May; therefore, throughout the course students will use past essay questions to improve their skills in writing answers to scientific, free-response questions. It is strongly recommended that students purchase a test prep book. There are many, many varieties and they all can be found at a local bookstore. Take the practice tests in these books so that you can become familiar with what to expect. When trying to find a test prep book, choose one that also lets you see sample essays. Some books just focus on the multiple choice, and you need to be exposed to both parts of the exam.

**Study Tips:**

1. A textbook cannot be read the way you would read a novel! Begin by pre-reading the chapter; glance at the section headings, charts and tables in order to organize the material in your mind and stimulate your curiosity. This will make it easier to read the chapter and extract more information from it.
2. Be an active, not passive reader, by stopping frequently (at least every paragraph) and consider what you have just read. What is the concept being discussed? Put it in your own words (out loud or by writing it down); by doing so you are reprocessing and using the information presented in the text. Place a few key notes in you notebook; make sure these notes include all new terms and illustrative examples.
3. Become a note taker and not a note copier! Simply writing down what is written on the board is passive learning (it's a start, but is not as effective as it could be). To get the most out of taking lecture notes, do it in a systematic manner. Before class read the textbook material to be covered in lecture. You will then use class time more efficiently because you will learn more from the lecture, and you will be able to take better notes having been introduced to many of the concepts in the text. During lecture do not attempt to write down every word that is said; that approach is futile and unnecessary. Instead, focus on the major ideas.
4. Summarize information by making your own diagrams and tables which will allow you to rehearse and test yourself on the material.
5. Relate new information to other, related information.
6. Study with a friend in the class and at home! Take turns explaining the material to each other. Set up on-going study groups and meet at each other’s home each week.
7. There is too much new material to be able to learn two weeks' worth of material the night before an exam! Review your text material and lecture notes daily so that you can avoid cramming at test time. Daily studying and rehearsal helps get information into long-term memory.
8. Make the most of your time in lab by arriving fully prepared.

**Scope & Sequence**: Students will be given a calendar that they are expected to keep all assignments and due dates on.

**Fall Semester – Populations, Ecology, Soil, Pesticide, Biodiversity**

**Spring Semester – Waste, Energy, Pollution**

**Cut and Return----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**I have read and understood the AP Environmental Syllabus and I agree to follow the Honor Code.**

**Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**