



Environmental Science with Mr. Murphy
2022 – 2023
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Course Description

This course has been designed as a hybrid class between research-based project learning assignments, lectures, hands-on labs, and curriculum enrich environmental science documentaries that enforces concepts within each topic. We will explore the content and teach each other in a community-driven environment based off of modern day science literacy and communication.

Course Goals:

1. To develop students understanding and appreciation of the nature of science, and the natural environment.
2. To participate in and apply environmental concepts through a variety of projects, hands-on activities, and lab/outdoors experiments.
3. To prepare students for a higher level of science education and greater develop their ability to think critically and scientifically.
4. To gain a higher understanding of science literacy in everyday life and environmentally specific situations.

Student Expectations (Mr. Murphy's base expectations across all classes)

Respect	Responsibility	Honesty
<p>Treat others the way you would like to be treated. If your actions would make someone else's day worse, don't do it, as you wouldn't want it done to you.</p> <p>As your teacher, I'm here to help you grow as an individual and a learner. Respect will go both ways between us, as I will strive to keep your respect.</p> <p>You have it in you to always reach the next level; respect and believe in yourself!</p>	<p>Show up and be on time. Complete the work that is given to you. It is designed to help you as an individual and learn more about the world around you.</p> <p>Follow through with projects and work; especially if you are doing it with a partner.</p> <p>Completing your work on time and with integrity is satisfying in its own regard; it proves you have it in you to be a great individual in terms of responsibility!</p>	<p>DON'T CHEAT; it will only come to make your life more difficult later. When you cheat you don't learn!</p> <p>I will not lie to you in order to build trust. If you lie to me, the trust will be gone, and we will need to rebuild it again.</p> <p>Trust goes a long way and is a great characteristic for others to rely on in you.</p>

Student Expectations (Decided Upon by Students)

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- **these will be added by the students after a beginning of the year class wide discussion**
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A Shared Learning Environment

Please respect the learning environment of other students. We will recreate a “scientific community” within my classroom; and just like a community that folks live in, we want to respect each other and our shared space. Clean up after yourself. Mind your language and behavior. Assist others if you have the capacity to do so and ask questions when needed. Please help us preserve a positive classroom environment.

CLASSWORK & ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be assigned classwork along with a light amount of Homework. Homework is meant to reinforce, or finish, the material being learned in class. This work may consist of practice, finishing unfinished class work, working on class projects, completing activities started in class, and reading. All homework is due on the assigned date. **If an assignment is not completed by the assigned date a grade of ZERO will be recorded for that assignment until that assignment is complete.** (Extenuating circumstances will be given exceptions after discussion with the teacher)

Late homework can be turned in within 5 school of when the assignment was graded for 10% grade penalty

ATTENDANCE & MAKE-UP WORK

It is the expectation that students aim for perfect attendance. However, I understand some days are missed. If a student is absent, it is **their responsibility** to see the teacher or email/chat for make-up work. **Makeup work must be completed by the date the teacher assigns after meeting with the teacher.**

Grading Policy

The grading system in this class will be based on a point system. Each item of work will be worth a predetermined number of points. All points will be summed to receive a total number of points possible and earned. Each area of work will then be weighted accordingly to receive a final percentage.

Quarter Grade Determination

Tests & Quizzes	40 %
Classwork & Homework	30 %
Projects	20 %
Documentaries/Readings	10 %

Classroom Management

As the teacher, it is my job and responsibility to maintain a safe and supportive environment in which all students feel welcome and can learn. In order to maintain this environment, disrespectful and disruptive behavior will have zero tolerance. Consequences will occur for students who actively disrupt the classroom environment by not following the expectations. The following steps will be used for classroom disruptions:

1. Warning followed by a personal discussion if needed.
2. Teacher detention with parent or guardian contacted and informed.
3. Discipline referral to office with parent or guardian contacted and informed

*If the offense is deemed severe enough, immediate referral to the office can be made

*The teacher, parents/guardians, and students should all familiarize themselves with the student handbook

Teaching Philosophy

It is my belief everyone has a right to learn while simultaneously growing as an individual and a community member. I strive to create a classroom environment that encourages critical thinking, self-growth, and development of becoming an informed citizen. I aim to provide the knowledge and resources required for a student to grow individually, and I hope that every student reaches their full potential. Please encourage all students to do the best they can – no matter the content or activity.

Course Outline

The following is an outline of the topics that we will cover throughout the year. The teacher retains the right to change it at any time to adapt the needs of the class or work with changing circumstances. (Ex; COVID)

Topics

1. Science and the Environment, Basic Needs of Living Things, Populations and Communities
2. Ecosystems: Energy, Patterns, and Disturbance, Wild Species and Biodiversity, The Value, Use, and Restoration of Ecosystems
3. The Human Population, Population & Development, Water Cycle and Human Use
4. Soil & Land. The Production and Distribution of Food, Pests & Pest Control
5. Energy from Fossil Fuels, Nuclear Energy, Renewable Energy
6. Economy, Politics, and Public Policy, Environmental Hazards and Human Health, Atmospheric Pollution
7. Global Climate Change, Water Pollution and Prevention, Municipal Solid Wastes, Hazardous Chemicals: Pollution and Prevention
8. Sustainable Communities and Lifestyles, Civilian Science and Scientific Communication, Stewardship

Course Materials

The majority of the course materials (Assignments, readings, and data sets) will be handed out on paper during class. Teams will be used as a class resource tool. All course materials such as Lecture Notes, Help guides, and Study Resources will be uploaded onto our Teams Page under the Class Files Folder. Many of the classwork exercises will require you to access Teams and download the necessary files for the work in class.

****Environmental Science is best done OUTSIDE.
Please come prepared to class with outdoor
apparel and outdoor boots/outdoor shoes!
(Make sure it is something you are not upset
about if it gets a little dirty!) I will aim to inform
the class a day or two before. Check Teams!***

I will strive and do my best to keep you aware of your child's progress during the year.
Please complete the information on the next page so that I may contact you.

Please detach and sign the final page to be returned to Mr. Murphy

**Parents: Feel free to contact me at school, by email or by phone, at any time concerning
your child's progress in my class. I am always willing to answer your questions or hear your
concerns. Parent conferences are welcomed!*

Parent- Student-Teacher Contract:

Please review the above syllabus, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.
Please Sign below acknowledging that you have read the syllabus and fully understand the course expectations

Print Name of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date: _____

Print Name of Student

Signature of student

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name:

Phone Number(s):

Email:



As a teacher of your child, I will strive to give them the best possible learning environment in my classroom. I welcome regular communication with parents about the progress of their child in Earth Science. To make this more efficient please complete the following information above. All information will be confidential and used only by Mr. Murphy to maintain communication with you throughout the year.

Use the line below to provide Any special information I should know about your child. *Please Print Clearly.*

Also, note that some of the scientific documentaries shown in this class have various ratings and require a parent permission slip. Please sign the permission slip below for consent.

* You do not need a parent to sign the portion below if you are over 18

MOVIE PERMISSION SLIP

I give permission for my child (_____) to watch **any** and **all** documentaries shown in Environmental science class for educational purposes.

Signature of Parent

Date: _____

Please return the signed contract and permission slip. You may do so electronically. If you need a printed copy, I can send one home with the student.