Environmental Science Course Outline
Fall 2020

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
“The test of environmental literacy is the capacity of an individual to act successfully in daily life on a broad understanding of how people and societies relate to each other and to natural systems, and how they might do so sustainably.” This is a great statement to encompass the goals of our class. My hope is to create environmental literacy in each of you by teaching you about the connections between humans and the natural world. Through this understanding we will also investigate many of the environmental problems we are facing and learn about sustainability and how to apply this concept to solutions.

Your main objectives in this class are as follows;
• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the environment and the circumstances and conditions affecting it, particularly as relates to air, climate, land, food, energy, water and ecosystems
• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of society’s impact on the natural world (e.g., population growth, population development, resource consumption rate, etc.)
• Investigate and analyze environmental issues, and make accurate conclusions about effective solutions
• Take individual and collective action towards addressing environmental challenges (e.g., participating in global actions, designing solutions that inspire action on environmental issues)

COURSE OUTLINE: The following is a list of broad content topics that we will cover. The order and depth at which we cover these is flexible.

• Environmental Issues Investigation
• Energy distribution through Earth Systems
• Interaction of Physical Systems with the Biosphere
• Conservation of Matter through Earth Systems/Cycling of matter
• Population Dynamics
• Community and Ecosystem Dynamics
• Species Diversity

ONLINE LEARNING SCHEDULE
Synchronous Teacher Led Learning Days – Tuesday & Friday @ 12:45pm - 1:30pm
Asynchronous Learning – Monday & Friday @ 12:45pm - 1:30pm
Check-in Day and Asynchronous Learning – Wednesday @ 11:00am-11:10am
Office Hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 8-10:15am & 2-3:30pm

ONLINE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS
Synchronous – Join the video conference on time and have materials ready. These materials include pencil, paper, calculator and any websites needed to complete course work. Have Schoology open and ready to go in a browser. You are expected to be on the video conference for the duration of class. Please find a quiet place in your house and give yourself an area to work.
Asynchronous – Assignments that are asynchronous are to be done on your own; however, I am available for help during the designated asynchronous period. Also during this time you may be asked to attend a video conference for small group instruction. Small group instruction, if assigned, is mandatory.

Check-in Day – Every Wednesday there will be a brief 10 minute video conference or check in to provide a brief period of instruction and to ensure all students are on track with the current assignments. Students will also complete an asynchronous assignment on check-in day.

Office Hours – Every day except for Wednesday there are Office Hours set aside for reteaching, 1:1 or group tutoring, small group instruction and student/parent meetings. You may schedule a time during office hours for tutoring. You may also attend a tutoring or instructional video conference during office hours. Office hours are considered part of the school day, so tutoring or conferences scheduled during this time are mandatory. If there is an instructional conflict during the requested time, we will work together to find a time that works.

ACTIVITIES/ PROJECTS: Demonstrations, presentations, and class activities will be required as well as maintaining an SAE program throughout the semester.

MATERIALS:
- Laptop, Paper, Pencil, Colored Pencils

CLASS EXPECTATIONS (Academic and Behavioral)
All students are required to follow all policies and procedures described by the Queen Anne’s County Board of Education and Queen Anne’s County High School.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Be on time and polite.
- Be prepared and attentive.
- Respect each other, yourselves and Mr. Stokes
- DO YOUR BEST AND SHOW PRIDE IN YOUR WORK!!!

ATTENDANCE POLICY
In order to be marked present for each class, each day, students must login to Schoology for each class, each day, and complete any work assigned for that day. Students should contact their teachers and guardians should contact the front office if a student must miss a class, or a full day of classes, in order to ensure that the missed instruction is marked as an excused absence. Students are responsible for making up any and all work missed due to an excused absence in order to receive credit for that work. All make up work must be completed by the established deadline or other arrangements must be made with the teacher.

GRADING POLICY:
Due to the shift to virtual learning for the Fall semester, the high school grading policy has been adjusted in order to provide students a better method to demonstrate their mastery of the content. The grades will now be divided into two categories: Mastery Assessments (50%) and Progress Assessments (50%). The previously utilized Final Exam category has been incorporated into the Mastery Assessment category in order to better align with online learning. Mastery Assessments will continue to be any assignment that demonstrates the summation of a student’s learning -
Progress Assessments will continue to be any assignment that demonstrates a student’s progressing towards mastery of a concept - daily work, quizzes, discussion participation, etc.

Students will have three days from the assigned due date to submit work late; each day after that, the assignment will be docked 10% off the final score. Teachers will establish a due date and a deadline for each assignment. After the deadline, late work will not be accepted. In extenuating circumstances, please work with the teacher directly.

**Academic Dishonesty**

All students at Queen Anne’s County High School are expected to conduct themselves with great pride in academics and the community at large. To this end, it is expected that all students will maintain academic integrity in every assignment. Work must be completed individually unless otherwise directed by the teacher. In our virtual learning environment, student work may only include the electronic resources provided or recommended by the teacher.

Plagiarism (the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own) is a severe offense at QACHS and will result in immediate consequences, such as:

- Parent Contact by email or phone
- Detention or Referral (depending on the severity of plagiarism or assignment)
- Immediate Zero on the Assignment (Possible “redo” of the assignment for partial credit is at the discretion of the instructor)
- Conference with the Academic Dean

**Examples of Academic Dishonesty (not an exhaustive list):**

- Using unauthorized materials and/or resources
- Copying work from another student, or from the web
- Working with other students on an assignment intended for individual work
- Having anyone else but you complete any part of your coursework for you
- Using online searches to find answers to your assessment questions
- Posting answers to assessment questions online

**PARENT/STUDENT SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The school will send out a Google Form to each parent asking them to virtually sign off on their student’s teachers’ syllabi. That’s not a perfect system, but better than attempting to track down mailed paperwork, or sending multiple google forms to each parent for virtual signoff.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

All emergency procedures (fire drills, weather drills, etc.) have been reviewed with the students as they pertain to evacuation and/or shelter in place situations. Each drill’s instructions are specific to the classroom location and crisis situation. If you have any questions or concerns about what your student should do in the case of an emergency, please speak to your student and/or email me directly.