

AP Environmental Science

Instructor: Mr. Andrew Britton

Room: # 552

Phone: 858-621-9020 x4552 (Classroom)

Instructor Email: abritton@sandi.net (Most effective way to reach me)

Tutoring: I am available most days before school for quick, clarification type questions and afterschool for more in depth tutoring and review.

Textbook: "Environment, The Science Behind The Stories, AP Edition" 4th edition, Withgott, Jay and Laposata, Matthew

Web page: <https://brittonsrhs.weebly.com/> or follow the link from the school website <http://www.srhfsfalcons.org>

Access Codes

Please use the access codes in the table below to join the Google Classroom and class Remind site for your class period.

	AP Environmental Science per 2	AP Environmental Science per 4
Google Classroom	berue3u	cfu4sha
Remind	f2c4dc	89d9ka7

Course Description*

Prerequisite: "A/B/C" in AP Biology or "A/B" in Advanced Biology or "A" in Biology with a strong teacher recommendation. A previous chemistry class is highly recommended, but chemistry can be taken concurrently with APES.*

Environmental Science (APES) is designed to be the equivalent of a one semester, introductory college course in environmental science. The course goal is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, to examine alternate solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Students must be prepared to do extensive labwork, some fieldwork, and reading. Students who take this course are encouraged to take the AP test. The AP test must be taken if a student wants the opportunity to earn college credit.

* Parents and students should consult the course catalog for correct level placement and refer to the student handbook regarding school-wide policies on level changes throughout the year. (www.srhfsfalcons.org)

Course Objectives

- To develop an understanding of scientific principles and an appreciation for the connectedness of mankind to the environment.
- To gain practical experience with standard laboratory and fieldwork techniques, equipment and methods of study. Students will be able to demonstrate the skills of experimental design, data analysis, and critical thinking.
- Apply scientific theory and research findings to explain everyday phenomena. Ultimately, students will be able to appreciate the roles of science, technology, and society, and perceive science as an ongoing human enterprise.

Learning/Teaching Philosophy

- Class discussions are an important aspect of class and students are expected to be prepared to participate. Discussions are an excellent opportunity to clarify material that is challenging. When

reading assignments are made, you should read for understanding, not just to get through the pages. Read it. Study it. Know it.

- I expect students to review class material nightly and think about the significance of the material we are studying. Work with, and think about the material until you see the connections to previous concepts and ideas.
- Involve yourself completely in all lab activities and their analysis. This is a chance to see first hand how the study of Environmental Science can inform you about the world around you.
- Plan your study time for exams in order to be prepared. The harder you work, the better your life will be. (True for all of life, not just in this class) Do not procrastinate!
- Throughout this class we will be undertaking the study of the environment and the ways in which humans impact it. As a human being and resident of earth you should find the ideas, concepts, and experiences relevant to your daily life. Learn as much about it as you can. Some of it is complex and will challenge you. Challenge is good.

Suggested Materials*

All students should be prepared to learn every day. This will require having all class notes, assignments, and handouts for the current chapter organized and easily accessible each day. Much of the work in this class this year will be completed electronically. All students should have a working chromebook, or personal laptop, with all San Diego Unified applications with them in class each day.

- * The Constitution of the State of California requires that we provide a public education to you free of charge. Your right to a free education is for all school/educational activities, whether curricular or extracurricular, and whether you get a grade for the activity or class. Subject to certain exceptions, your right to a free public education means that we cannot require you or your family to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity, nor can we require you or your family to pay security deposits for access, participation, materials, or equipment. You may be required to attend a fundraising event; however, if you are unable to raise funds for the event, you will not be prevented from participating in an educational activity. Please see the current student handbook at www.srhsfalcons.org regarding the right to a free public education

Class Policies

- **Lab Safety:** Safety is a primary concern. Misconduct during labs will result in a zero for that lab. Continued misbehavior will result in suspension from future lab activities with no opportunity to make up the lost points.
- **Academic Honesty:** Cheating is a breach of integrity that results when grades, rather than education, have become the major focus of students. In my experience, students who seek to understand the material taught in their classes and who approach school as an opportunity to learn new information are less likely to cheat. Those who are committed to understanding seldom worry about grades, because by working to understand the concepts, and apply them, they have mastered the concept and their grades naturally reflect this. Those who are more concerned about what they have to do to get an 'A' are those that are most susceptible to the enormous pressures to cheat. Copying another student's work is not a way to make up for work missed during an absence, fill in information that was not understood, or finish assignments that were not completed. All written work should be in the students own words and demonstrate their own original thinking. All copied work will receive a zero for all parties involved. All students are required to follow the SRHS academic honesty policy.

*Please refer to the current student handbook (page 28) at www.srhsfalcons.org

- **Absences:** Students are expected to make up assessments and lab work missed due to excused absences and it is recommended for students to complete any feedback assignments missed during their absence. Assignments are listed in Google Classroom for each class period. Students are responsible for emailing me on the first day of an absence to discuss work missed and to determine how to complete labs and other classwork, including making up any missed assessments.

- **Tardies:** Please be on time. Arriving late is very disruptive to me and to other students.
*Please refer to the current student handbook on the school website www.srhsfalcons.org
- **Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:** These devices must be kept out of sight, silenced or turned off during classroom time (virtual or in person) unless specified by the teacher for authorized academic purposes. It is recommended that students not have their phone on their person during class. It can be placed elsewhere in the home during virtual learning and should remain in their backpacks during in person, classroom learning.
*Please refer to the current student handbook at www.srhsfalcons.org
- **General Behavior and Consequences:** Behavior that interferes with my ability to teach or the ability of others to learn will not be tolerated. All students are expected to follow all school-wide rules and policies while in my classroom (virtual or brick and mortar). These expectations are the same as they would be in a face to face setting. School wide behavior policies and expectations include dress code, behavior in class, bullying policies, and network use policies among others.
* Please refer to the current student handbook at www.srhsfalcons.org

Evaluation

- Students struggling to understand, having difficulties keeping up, questioning their ability to succeed in the class, and/or simply absent, should contact me immediately.
- **Academic Grades** are based on how well students master the concepts and standards of AP Environmental Science. A student's academic grade in the class will be based on their ability to demonstrate mastery of the concepts through assessments and lab work. Additional, unweighted, but highly recommended feedback assignments will be assigned to provide students with additional review and feedback throughout each unit.
- **Assessments (*weighted 85% of overall class grade*):** Include unit tests at the end of each unit and quizzes throughout a given unit. Students who score less than 80% on a unit test and therefore do not demonstrate proficiency with content area standards for that unit, will be allowed a second attempt to demonstrate their knowledge through an alternative assessment (retake).
 - Students seeking a retake, must meet with me in person to ***request the retake within two class days of the initial score being posted in Powerschool.*** Posting of scores to Powerschool will be announced in class.
 - Students seeking to retake a unit test, must complete all of the feedback assignments in that unit with a score of 3 or better and all of the lab work with a score of 80% or better. If assignments are missing, or show insufficient mastery of the concept, they must be completed or revised before the retake date. Students who scored a 3 or better on all assignments in a unit may be asked to complete additional assignments or tutoring before taking a retake.
 - Retakes provide students with a second chance to demonstrate proficiency with the content standards. The maximum score that can be earned on a retake is 80%.
 - All retake scores (up to 80% of the maximum score) will replace the original score earned on a given assessment, ***even if the retake score is lower than the original score the student earned.***
 - Retakes will take place after school.

- **Labwork (weighted 15% of overall class grade):** Each unit will involve several in depth laboratory investigations related to the content of the unit. Labs are an integral part of science and allow students to practice making a claim, collecting relevant evidence, and then reasoning from the evidence to support or refute their claim. Students who score less than 80% on a given lab, and therefore do not demonstrate proficiency with content area standards for that unit, will be allowed to redo the lab.
 - Students seeking to redo a lab, must meet with me in person to ***schedule a time afterschool to redo the lab within two class days of the initial score being posted in Powerschool.***
 - Redoing a lab provides students with a second chance to demonstrate proficiency with the content standards. The maximum score that can be earned on a redone lab is 80%.
 - All scores on redone labs (up to 80% of the maximum score) will replace the original score earned on a given assessment, ***even if the redo score is lower than the original score the student earned.***
- **Feedback Assignments (weighted 0% of overall class grade):** Students may expect practice and review assignments in addition to the graded assessments and lab work in order to help them gain proficiency with the concepts and standards ahead of labs and assessments. These assignments will receive feedback using the scale below, but **WILL NOT** count towards the students overall academic grade in the class.

0 = shows little to no progress

1 = beginning progress toward demonstrating understanding of concepts

2 = approaching mastery of concepts, some misconceptions exist

3 = Meeting expectations for demonstrating concept understanding

4 = Exceeds expectations for meeting concept understanding

Completion of these assignments will have a recommended due date for completion to help students pace themselves through the content of the course. These assignments are intended to guide students as they practice with the content and provide them with feedback on their understanding. For maximum benefit, it is recommended that students review and complete these assignments by the recommended due date.

- The class academic grading scale is as follows:
 - A** = 100% - 90% = Exceeds content area standards.
 - B** = 89.99% - 80% = Meets content area standards.
 - C** = 79.99% - 70% = Approaching content area standards.
 - D** = 69.99% - 60 = Beginning progress towards content area standards.
 - F** = 59.99% - 0% = Little, to no progress towards meeting content area standards.
- Academic grades are earned through daily hard work. Do not expect to have your grades improved at the end of a grading period by any other method than sustained hard work. Do not expect extra credit.
- **Citizenship grades** are based on a student's behavior, punctuality, effort, and their contributions to the classroom community. I expect that all students will, at a minimum, abide by the behavior standards outlined in this syllabus and in the SRHS student handbook and as a result all students start the semester with the citizenship grade of Meets (M). To improve a citizenship grade to Excellent (E) a student must engage in the class with a positive attitude, participate regularly in class discussions, complete

assignments in a timely manner, and be prepared for class or otherwise contribute to making our time together more enjoyable and productive for all.

- **Citizenship Mark Explanation**

Exceeds(E): Consistently exceeds expectations in attitude, work completion, preparation, and participation, and actively contributes to the learning experiences of their peers.

Meets (M): Consistently meets expectations: completes most work on time, prepared to learn, participates regularly, shows respect for others, and contributes to building a positive community.

Inconsistent (I): Inconsistently meets expectations: occasionally completes work on time, not always prepared to learn, participates irregularly, and/or may occasionally disrupt the work of others.

Unsatisfactory (U): Does not meet expectations: work is habitually late, not prepared to learn, does not participate, and/or disrupts the work of others.