**Honors Environmental Science Syllabus**

Leesville Road High School 2019-2020

**Teacher:** Mrs. Leslie Lamberth **Room:** 255

**Contact:** Email is the preferred mode of contact and replies will be given within 24 hours. llamberth@wcpss.net

**Student Resources:** Class notes, supplemental videos and links, digital documents, and general unit outlines can be found on the class website at [lamberthearth.weebly.com](http://lamberthearth.weebly.com/)

**Course Description:** Environmental Science provides students an introduction to the complex systems that we use to describe our natural world. Ours is an integrated course that involves several areas of science, including biology, ecology, earth science, and the social sciences. An understanding of Environmental Science gives students a greater awareness of the interdependence of life on Earth and how human beings impact and rely upon the environment.

Through the course students will be introduced to current news topics related to environmental science, geographic areas that have been impacted by environmental events and policies, and how to make observations in the natural setting. The course will include lab work both inside the classroom and outside on the campus grounds.

**Objectives/Goals:**

* Students will be able to identify and discuss environmental events that have been influenced by human activity and that have had an impact on the human population.
* Students will be able to analyze the complexities of environmental issues in our daily lives, including political and ethical concerns and sociological consequences.
* Students will be able to identify historical patterns in the environment and use that information to predict future conditions and their impact on ecosystems and the human population.
* Students will be able to discuss how the ecosystems in North Carolina and our local area have been shaped by the environment.
* Students will promote environmental awareness and citizen involvement, both now and in the future.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Enrollment in google classroom site to access digital assignments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. 3 ring binder with notebook paper for note taking and organization of paperwork for each unit. Material should be kept for the entire semester to prepare students for the cumulative, required North Carolina Final Exam.

**Extra Credit:** I may choose to issue extra credit over the course of the school year. Any extra credit assigned would be available to all students who are currently not missing any assignments. You are expected to complete all classwork before extra credit opportunities are open to you. Please do not depend on these opportunities to boost your grade, as their availability are beyond your control, whereas you classwork is.

**Grading Policy:** Student grades will be determined by the following percentages:

Tests: 50%

Major Assessments: 30%

(Projects, quizzes, major labs)

Minor Assessments: 20% (classwork, homework)

Student assignments and grades will be posted on PowerSchools. Grades will be updated at a **minimum** twice per month. Most assignments will be graded prior to the end of each unit but larger projects and labs may take longer to assess.

Students are required to take a standardized final exam at the end of the semester worth 20% of their final grade. Each quarter grade will be worth 40% of the final grade.

**\*\*\* Remember that the final exam is CUMULATIVE!!! \*\*\***

Refer to the student handbook regarding other semester Grades, Policies, and Procedures.

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Be on time. This means you will be seated in your assigned seat when the tardy bell rings. NOTE: The bell for dismissal signals that class is over. Students are expected to remain in their seats until dismissal. Please do not pack up to leave early.
2. Be courteous. Respect others when they have something to say. Listen when the teacher gives instruction. Use appropriate language. Raise your hand if you have a question and wait to be called upon. Your behavior should never prevent another student from learning. Leave the classroom as clean as you found it. Do not use your phone during class unless you have been given permission by the instructor.
3. Be prepared. Bring required materials with you to class every day. You will need them. This includes your notebook, writing utensil and completed assignments.

**Class Policies:**

* **Cell phone and earbud/headphones:** Cell phones are not permitted in my classroom. If they are out of sight and turned off, that is not an issue. Should I see them, they will be confiscated for the class period and a discipline referral and parent contact will be completed when necessary. Earbuds and headphones should not be out while in class.
* **Class absences:** The class tardy/skipping policy will follow the school policy outlined in the student handbook. Students are expected to be in class every day on time. After the first ten minutes of class you are allowed to leave for the bathroom when the pass is available during any class time when direct instruction is not being given (such as lecture, lab instruction, test instruction). If students are out with the bathroom pass in excess of 10 minutes it will be considered skipping and a referral will be completed.
* **Late work:** All late work will incur a penalty. Turning in work late is not fair to other students that are working hard to be successful in class. Work that is turned in one day late will result in a 20% deduction in the grade. Any work turned in more than one day late will result in a 40% deduction in the grade up to the end of the unit (test day). Late work for the unit will not be accepted after the unit test is completed. Make up work for excused absences will follow the policies outlined in the student handbook.
* **Test recovery:** Test recovery will be available to students that score a D or F on the unit tests. Recovery will be completed during the designated Pride Time or after school by appointment. Students that complete the recovery can receive up to a 70 on their test grade. Recovery grades will be posted in PowerSchools as a non-graded assignment but will adjusted in the test grades.
* **Cheating/Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a zero for the assignment grade and a parent contact. Any option for recovery of the assignment will receive a grade no higher than a 59. Cheating will be handled similarly but may also result in a discipline referral depending on the offense.

**Keys for success:**

1. Have a positive attitude and an open mind!
2. Ask for help. I am here to help you achieve success but you are your best advocate to let me know what you need.
3. Ask questions. It’s likely that someone in class will have the same one. Questions are what make you a scientist so never hesitate to ask.
4. Use your time in class wisely. Do not over extend yourself trying to complete everything outside of class. If you work on assignments in class it gives you the opportunity to collaborate with classmates or ask questions that may give your grade a boost.
5. Try. Effort does not guarantee success, but it is required to achieve it. If you feel overwhelmed with something ask around for assistance but never give up!
6. Explore other resources available to expand your learning outside of what has been discussed in class. This practice will not only improve all of your effort in class but it will build positive skills for your future education.

**Student Awareness and Agreement:**

“I have read this document and understand what is expected of me.”

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_