

# PINE RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

## Environmental Science Honors

2020-2021

Building 6, Room 016

Instructor: Kelly-Ann Hammerdorfer  
Email: [khammerd@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:khammerd@volusia.k12.fl.us)  
Phone: 386-575-4195, Ext. 43620  
Remind: Ensihonors

Office Hours: Before or after school by appointment only. Students may ask questions the Remind app from 8am to 9pm seven days a week.

Grading: 60%-Summative (Exams, projects, alternative assessments, etc.)  
40%- Formative (Classwork, Notebook Assignments, Notes)

Grading Scale: A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69%  
F: Less than 59%

### **I. What is Environmental Science?**

Environmental Science is the study of the physical, chemical, and biological components of the environment and their interactions with anthropogenic (human) inputs and outputs.

Environmental Science is interdisciplinary. It incorporates information from the following disciplines: chemistry, biology, geology, economics, political science, and public administration. Environmental science is chiefly concerned with how humans shape and make decisions about the natural world, and the vigorous debates that continue to inform decision-making.

### **II. Course Objectives:**

Students mastering the material of this class will be able to do the following: (1) understand and define terminology commonly used in environmental science; (2) briefly summarize and describe global, regional, and landscape scale environmental processes and systems; (3) list common and adverse human impacts on biotic communities, soil, water, and air quality and suggest sustainable strategies to mitigate these impacts; (4) read, critically evaluate presented information and data using scientific principles and concepts, synthesize popular media reports/articles discussing environmental issues, and verbally discuss and defend their positions on scientific issues; and (5) apply learned information to postulated environmental scenarios to predict potential outcomes.

### **III. Course Expectations**

All Students are held to high expectations. Students are expected to come to class prepared and on time. Students must bring their ISN to class every day. When students enter the classroom, they should begin working on the bell work immediately. Students are expected to work appropriately in the classroom, complete all assignments on time, and to put forth their best effort.

### **IV. Interactive Science Notebooks (ISN's)**

All students will maintain an Interactive Science Notebook (ISN). Nearly all formatives will be placed in the ISN and students must place their assignments in the ISN on the appropriate page before the items are graded. Student will receive reduced credit if items are placed on the wrong page. Do not turn in your ISN if it is out of order with pages sticking out-I will not grade it. ISN's will be graded weekly. If you receive a zero for missing work and you subsequently complete your missing assignments, show me your notebook during my office hours-I will not

re-grade your notebooks during class. It is important to complete your work on time! See the Notebook Guidelines handout provided for more information about the ISN.

#### **V. Laboratory Experiments**

Scientific experiments and activities will be conducted frequently throughout this course. Students are expected to abide by Lab Safety Guidelines and students will sign a Lab Safety Contract provided by the instructor.

#### **VI. Make-up Work**

Students are allotted three days per absence for turning in missing work. I will maintain a class ISN that contains instructions for each of the assignments. Daily tasks will also be posted in **Teams**. The time to discuss make-up work with me is office hours, not during class time. Students may be able to make up labs during office hours or an alternative assignment may be provided. Notes and other assignments will be placed on **Canvas**. Physical copies may be picked up on the student supply desk.

#### **VII. Late Work**

Late work will be accepted for reduced credit at my discretion. Students will be receive 50% credit for formatives turned in after the summative for that unit.

#### **VIII. Cornell Notes**

Students are expected to take Cornell-Style Notes. A handout will be provided detailing how to do this. A few slides will be presented and students must process the notes in the left column by developing questions based on the notes. The summary at the bottom of the page will be the answers to the questions generated by the students. Students will not receive full credit without completing the questions column or the summary.

#### **IX. Costa's Levels of Questioning**

Students must become familiar with Costa's Levels of Questioning, in which there are three levels of questions based on complexity. A handout will be provided that will explain this in more detail. Students are expected to develop questions based on Costa's guidelines for their Cornell Notes.

#### **X. Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to adhere to the highest ethical standards in my classroom. Students caught cheating, *or allowing other students to copy their work*, will receive zero credit for the assignment/test, parents/guardians will be contacted, and a notation will be made on the assignment in Focus. There will be no alternate/forgiveness assignment.

#### **XI. Electronics Policy**

Students are encouraged to bring their own device to class when possible. Students will be using digital resources through Canvas and Teams. Students may only use their devices when given permission and must put them away when directed to. Students are expected to stay on task and not accesses social media, surf the web, play games, ect.

#### **XII. Food and Drinks**

Food and drinks are not permitted in the classroom. Students may have water in a closed container when there are no labs being conducted.

#### **XIII. Sanitation and Safety**

Students will be expected to clean and sanitize their area before and after class under the supervision of the teacher as stated in the district guidelines. Students are also expected to wash or sanitize their hands at the beginning and at the end of each class. Students are required to comply to the mask policy and social distancing guidelines until the district amends/removes the emergency order.

#### **XIV. Volusia Live**

Volusia Live students are held to the same standards as if they were in the classroom. Students should access the virtual session on time. If the student is facing any technical difficulties they should contact the teacher immediately through email, Teams, or Remind.

**Course Schedule:** The following is a tentative schedule of topics that will be covered in this course. The schedule will likely change but this gives you a general idea of the course schedule.

Unit 1: Intro to Environmental Science and Earth's Systems (August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 2: Community Ecology (September 22<sup>nd</sup> – October 9<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 3: Biodiversity (October 12<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 4: Biomes and Aquatic Ecosystems (November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 5: Population Demographics (November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 6: Human Population (December 14<sup>th</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup>)

**SMT 1:** Review (January 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>) SMT 1 (January 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Unit 7: Toxicology (January 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 8: Atmosphere and Climate Change (January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 12<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 9: Water Resources (February 16<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 10: Waste Management (March 8<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 11: Land Management (March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 16<sup>th</sup>)

Unit 12: Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources (April 19<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>)

**SMT 2:** Review (May 10<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>) SMT (June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>)

By signing below, I am stating that I have read and that I understand the syllabus.

---

Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature: