

CPS Environmental Science Syllabus 2023-2024

Instructor: Mrs. Erin Ellis

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Phone Number: 508-529-2130 Ext. 1120

Office Hours: Mornings starting at 6:45 AM. All Green-wing breaks. Monday and Wednesday after school 2:00- 4:00pm. Other afternoons by appointment only.

*Email is the best way to communicate with me outside of class or extra help sessions. Please allow up to 48 hours for a reply.

Course Description:

Environmental Science is a project and lab-oriented course which emphasizes the biology of populations, including humans, and their interactions with the environment. Students will explore how living and non-living components of the Earth have changed through time and continue to change to create the diverse and extraordinary world in which we live. Human interactions and influences on the environment, both positive and negative are continuous themes and lead to students creating personal projects to positively impact the environment.

Course Requirements:

- A 3-ring binder for keeping class notes (all students are given guided notes) and folders for handouts.
- A pencil, eraser and blue or black pen.
- iPad – This should be brought to class **charged** every day.
- Agenda – **Strongly** suggested

Course Digital Platform(s):

1. **Google Classroom** – All class announcements and assignments will be posted to google classroom and include due dates when appropriate. Students are expected to log-on each class to access the resources, materials, assignments and announcements. In most cases, students are not expected to turn-in assignments through google classroom, however, *students are highly encouraged to do so* (even if it is to submit a picture of handwritten work – this cuts down on work “forgotten at home”.) Google classroom will NOT be used as a grading platform.
2. **PowerSchool** – Grades for assignments will be posted here. PowerSchool is “live” so grades will be kept up to date each cycle in the schedule (Day 1- Day7).

Course Expectations:

Tests/ Quizzes:

Tests will be given at the end of most units. All tests will be announced at least week in advance. Test retakes are not offered. Open-note test corrections will be allowed on all tests. Corrections must be completed within 2 weeks after original tests are returned.

Quizzes may be given periodically throughout a unit. Quizzes are usually announced in advance, however, students should be prepared for pop quizzes over material already discussed in class.

Formal Lab work:

All formal lab reports/lab notebooks are due in hard copy (unless previously arranged) at the beginning of class. Labs are expected to follow the format outlined unless otherwise stated. Students are expected to hand-in neatly written reports in their lab notebooks.

Safety in all labs is essential. Students who do not follow instructions or violate lab rules will be dismissed from the room. **Any student asked to leave the lab area will be given a zero for the lab assignment and his or her parent will be contacted to discuss the incident.**

Homework:

Students can expect occasional, however, most of the time class time will be given so students may work on assignments individually or in pairs. Absolutely **NO LATE HOMEWORK IS ACCEPTED** except in the case of an absence. Please note, all assignments are available on google classroom the day they are assigned.

Projects/Informal Labs/Classwork:

Students will be given both individual and group assignments throughout the year as a way of demonstrating their learnings. The expectation is that students will be able to complete assignments during school hours, however, students will be expected to complete work at home if they are unable to complete it during the class time allotted.

Make-Up Policy:

Students are expected to make every effort to complete missed work due to absence within 2 days of the absence. Advanced notice on a planned extended absence is expected at least 1 week prior to the date. If a student has an unplanned extended absence (greater than 2 days), Mrs. Ellis will work 1-1 with the student to come up with an appropriate plan to make-up work. All labs must be made up after school within one week of a student returning to school. Students should be prepared to take a missed test or quiz the during the next class period after returning to school unless prior arrangements have been made.

Failure to reschedule make-up appointments or keep these appointments will result in a zero.

Late Work:

All labs, projects, classwork and papers will be accepted late with a penalty of 10% off per day late. **None will be accepted after 3 days.** Please note, weekends count as 1 day. Any student marked present at school, but absent from class (field trip, etc.) is responsible for handing in work on time, before class begins.

Late to Class:

If a student is late to class three times a detention will be issued. Coming unprepared to class (no notebook, pen and pencil, or charged iPad) is equivalent to a tardy. Please ask before the bell rings if you find you have forgotten something. **If class is scheduled directly after a break or lunch, students are expected to use the restroom before entering class so as not to interrupt planned activities.**

Food in Room:

There will be no food allowed in the science rooms. Water may be carried into class, but during labs will need to be left at designated areas.

Break down of grade:

Tests:	50-100 points
Labs:	50-70 points
Projects:	50- 100 points
Activities:	20-50 points
Quizzes:	10-40 points
Homework:	10 points

Classroom expectations:

All students are expected to:

- Come prepared to learn with both class supplies and a positive attitude.
- Be respectful of others – Embrace differences because they are what enrich our experiences.
- Be respectful of me and my time – I will meet all students more than halfway in order that they have a positive experience and learn what is required, however students need to take responsibility for their own learning by:
 - Completing all work well (not quickly) and on time.
 - Studying efficiently and always give his or her best effort.
 - Being proactive in completing missed work and making appointments for making up work.
 - Coming in for extra help if needed and communicating questions.
 - **Leaving cellphones in backpacks**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at Nipmuc Regional High School! I am looking forward to working with your children this semester in Environmental Science. This is a full year course exploring ecosystems, populations, earth systems and human interactions with the environment. We will be focusing mostly on biology standards, but also including some basic chemistry and physics concepts.

This document serves as the classroom syllabus that outlines the course description, classroom expectations and grading policy for the course. Please keep in mind that adjustments can and will be made at an individual level throughout the semester so as to reach the needs of every learner. If you feel that something isn't working for your child, please do not hesitate to reach out. Likewise, if you feel that something is working well, please let me know!

Please review this document with your child and sign, along with your child, an acknowledgement of both receiving and understanding the expectations outlined here. Students are expected to turn in this signed document by the next class period. It is their first homework assignment for the course.

Thank you,

Erin Ellis
Biology Teacher
eellis@mursd.org

Parent/Student Acknowledgement:

I acknowledge that I am responsible for checking my school email and Environmental Science Google classroom DAILY. Additionally, I am responsible for checking my grades digitally throughout each term in PowerSchool.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I acknowledge that cellphones are not allowed to be out in the classroom and must be kept in my bag during the class period unless given specific permission to access it. Additionally, excessive disregard for this policy could result in detention, administrative action and parent/guardian communication.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I have read and understand the course requirements, expectations and rules for this class. I agree to abide by them and understand the consequences if I choose not to follow the rules. I will also contact Mrs. Ellis if there are any concerns.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Comments or Questions ? - Please email eellis@mursd.org or create a private comment on the syllabus assignment post in google classroom.