

Tussey Mountain High School
Environmental Science/Physical Science
Course Syllabus – School Year 2014-2015

Instructor: Mrs. Deidra Stoltz

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Room: C109

Course Description: Environmental Science / Physical Science is a one credit course that will focus on one half year of environmental topics and one half year of physical science topics. In the environmental portion, students will receive instruction in areas such as the organization of life, ecosystems, biomes, aquatic ecosystems, species interactions, and biodiversity. In the physical science portion, students will be receiving instruction in areas such as classifying matter, states of matter, atomic structure, the periodic table and chemical reactions. Students will also have the opportunity to research all of these concepts in various laboratory activities.

Required Materials

1. Provided textbook: Environmental Science, Karen Arms (Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Copyright 2008) and Physical Science: Concepts in Action, Wysession, Frank, Yancopoulos (Prentice Hall, Copyright 2004)
2. All students will keep a 3-ring binder for class notes, homework assignments, worksheets and laboratory handouts. It will be graded during the school year.

Course Assessments

1. Grades for each marking period are based on total points accumulated compared to total possible points.
2. Homework assignments will be graded.
3. Exams will be given at the end of each section. A mid-term exam (physical science) and final exam (environmental science) will be given at the end of each semester.
4. Pencil and paper quizzes and tests based on class discussions, notes and lectures.
5. Laboratory experiments and exercises designed to display concepts discussed in class.
6. All students will start each marking period with 50 responsibility points. Points will be deducted from this grade for not being prepared for class, not having class materials, not having an appropriate pass, late to class, not in seat when bell rings, head down on desk, etc.
 - a. Points deducted from the responsibility grade will increase by one for offenses that are repeatedly violated. It is up to my discretion to deduct additional points if other issues arise that could require a loss of more than one point. This resets every marking period.

Homework Expectations

1. Homework will be assigned at least two to three nights a week. Most homework assignments will be graded.
2. Graded homework assignments will be worth approximately 10-20 points. These assignments may be graded based on effort, not necessarily on having the correct answer.
3. Late work will not be accepted – DON'T ASK!

4. If a homework assignment is due a day you are absent, then it is due the day you return. If additional homework is assigned the day you are absent, then it is due the very next day. There is no three day grace period.
5. Students will make up tests quizzes the day they return as long as they were present the day it was announced. Study halls can be used for this purpose.

Classroom Rules

1. You are responsible for bringing all materials to class every day. This includes your textbook, binder, and pencil. Failure to do so will result in the loss of responsibility points.
2. You must report to class on time every day. If you are late, a pass is expected. If you do not have an appropriate pass, responsibility points will be lost.
3. An effort should be made to use the restroom between classes. Otherwise, the restroom pass should be utilized at the end of the period. You will be permitted to use the restroom once per week. If you feel you need to use it more than once, responsibility points will be deducted.
4. If you do not have your pass, you can use mine at a cost of one responsibility point per use.
5. Inappropriate language and/or discussions will result in an automatic detention and loss of responsibility points.
6. Destruction of school property will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a disciplinary referral and loss of responsibility points.
7. **Electronic devices (i.e., phones, iPods, MP3 players, handheld games, etc.) will be confiscated by me if seen regardless of reason. Please do not use the excuse that you were “just checking the time.” No electronic devices should be used for any reason. There is a pink basket in the front of the room for you to place your phone if you feel you cannot control yourself. All confiscated phones will be sent to the principal’s office.**

Parent/Guardian Signature Sheet

Upon reviewing the course syllabus for Environmental Science/Physical Science with your child, please sign on the space below to signify that you have read and understand the requirements for this course. Please have your child return this sheet with your signature and contact information. The syllabus should be kept by you and your child for future reference. Thank you.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Best time to be contacted: _____

E-mail Address: _____