Welcome to Environmental Science

Ms Mendenhall

Office Hours: 7:30-7:45 daily in Room 211 and by appointment
Contact: lmendenhall@bhpsnj.org
Google Class Code: __________ Lab: __________
Website: [http://www.bhpsnj.org/Page/5448](http://www.bhpsnj.org/Page/5448)

Welcome to the interdisciplinary world of environmental science. In this course we will be combining our knowledge of science with that of history, political science, math, economics, sociology, psychology, the arts and life in general. This an applied science course that focuses on problem solving. We will examine the natural environment and consider how human activity is changing it. I am looking forward to a challenging and rewarding year with you. My door is always open if you have any questions or concerns.

Policies & Procedures to ensure success:

- Please arrive on time to class & lab.
  - School Policy: Teacher detention will be assigned if you are late to class more than once, or if you are late to lab once. After 4 lates, you will be referred to the assistant principal for discipline consequences.
- Cell phones are not allowed.
- iPads will be required for this course. Please come to class with them charged daily.
- Come to class prepared to work every day – this includes having something to write with as well as your packet and homework.
- Food is not permitted in the classroom but you may have a water bottle.
- Please remain seated at the end of the period and wait to be dismissed.
- Have respect for yourself and others, and be supportive of one another.
- Respect the classroom by keeping it neat and cleaning up before you are asked.
- Please share anything that comes up that may prevent you from being prepared for class, sooner rather than later. This may include a religious holiday, death in the family, vacation, etc. Accommodation will be made for situations such as these so that you get caught up, and so that you are prepared for assessments.
- Honor Code: The expectation is that you will not cheat on any assignments or help anyone else cheat on assignments. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, giving others answers, talking about an assessment with other students who have not taken it yet, copying assignments or parts of assignments, and not citing research during a project. If you are caught cheating, you will be referred to the assistant principal, the incident will be recorded on your permanent record, your parents will be contacted, and you will receive a zero for the assignment. In instances where there is more than one person involved, both people will be disciplined equally.
Textbook & Notebook:

- The textbook (Environmental Science, Miller) will be issued to you at the beginning of the school year. It should be returned in the condition it was issued or fines may be issued. You can keep the textbook at home. We have a class set for use in school.
- Please stay organized for class. This includes having a dedicated folder or section in a 3-ring binder for school (for current work) and a place at home to keep past work (to prepare for the final exam).

Grading:

- A total points system is used to calculate your grades.
- In general, tests and projects are worth about 100 points, quizzes and labs 40-80 points, and classwork 10-20 points.
- PowerSchool: You can check PowerSchool to see your grades at any time.
- Preparation, participation, and your overall contributions to the success of our class are also important factors in your grade – you are expected to have all your materials on your desk ready to begin class when the bell rings.
- Absent work: It is your responsibility to obtain missing work and to submit all makeup work. Please check Google Classroom for missed work and notes.
- Late work: Homework will not be accepted late. Lab reports and projects may be submitted late for partial credit.
- Final course grades are calculated according to school policy as follows: Q1 = 22.5%, Q2 = 22.5%, Q3 = 22.5%, Q4 = 22.5%, Exam = 10%

Course Themes:

- Science is a process.
- Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes.
- The Earth itself is one interconnected system.
- Humans alter natural systems.
- Environmental problems have a cultural and social context.
- Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.

Objectives of Field & Lab Work:

- Critically observe environmental systems;
- Develop and conduct well-designed experiments;
- Utilize appropriate techniques and instrumentation;
- Analyze and interpret data, including appropriate statistical and graphical presentations;
- Think analytically and apply concepts to the solution of environmental problems;
- Make conclusions and evaluate their quality and validity;
- Propose further questions for study; and
- Communicate accurately and meaningfully about observations and conclusions.