This course introduces students to the major concepts of ecology and environmental science. Students first develop laboratory and reasoning skills used by scientists to build understandings about the structure and function of systems. Students will then apply those understandings to the study of basic physical laws that govern ecosystem dynamics. This is followed by an examination of how individuals, populations, and communities interact with their surroundings. Students will investigate the processes responsible for changing the earth and its ecosystems over time and gain a basic understanding of how humans interact with and have the ability to change their environment.

**Texts**


Supplemental sources will be used as deemed appropriate.

**Grading**

Your grade each quarter will be computed using the following formula. Information about each category is given below.

1. Tests & Quizzes: 45 %
2. Classwork, Labs, and Projects: 35 %
3. Homework: 10%
4. Class and Lab Participation: 10 %

**Total:** 100 %

1. **Tests and Quizzes:** This is exactly what it sounds like. You will usually have 3-4 tests each quarter and a quiz on Friday of each week that you do not have a test. All tests are worth 100 points while quizzes are worth 10 points.

2. **Classwork, Labs, and Projects:** Throughout each quarter you will be responsible for handing in a number of in-class and lab assignments as well as a few formal lab reports. Lab assignments are handed out in premade lab packets. You will complete the lab packet while performing an experiment and after analyzing data. Lab reports will be short papers you will write about an experiment you performed. All assignments and reports more than one page in length must be stapled when turned in or they will not be accepted.
Each quarter you will have one or two major projects. You will receive a rubric for each project when the project is assigned. A project may be an individual paper or presentation, or a group assignment of some sort. Group assignments will include both group and individual grade components. While each project will have a major work product that will be handed in on the final due date, there will be a number of intermediate assignments due before the final due date.

3. **Homework:** Homework will be checked on an almost daily basis. I will either collect it from you and later return it, or walk around during class to check that you have made an effort to complete it. Homework is practice. I am not concerned about correct answers, but I am concerned about effort and completeness. **For each homework assignment you miss after your second in any quarter, you will be required to come in afterschool on the Thursday following the missed homework.**

4. **Participation and Notebook:** Ten percent of your grade is based on your participation in class. To earn full credit for this, you will need to come to class with all of the materials needed for each day (notebook, pen/pencil, etc.), make some contributions to group and class discussions, participate safely in labs, and respect the classroom rules.

**Assignments and Projects**

A sheet detailing homework assignments for the upcoming week will be distributed in class on Monday. It will have a listing of the assignments due that Tuesday though the following Monday. This sheet will also be posted as a .pdf file on seiplescience.com by the beginning of school on Monday. Major assignments will also be distributed in class and posted on seiplescience.com.

**Classroom Rules**

1. Do nothing that prevents you from learning.
2. Do nothing that prevents others from learning.
3. Do nothing that prevents me from teaching.
4. Do nothing that endangers yourself or others.

**Everyday you will need to bring**

1. a three-ring binder with notebook paper and graph.
2. a pen **and** pencil
3. any assigned materials and work due.
4. a calculator.
5. your best effort.
Outside of Class

My goal is your success and I will do what it takes to help you. I am available and welcome you to come in for extra help and questions. While I will be glad to meet with you, you should set up an appointment to guarantee that I am free.

Tuesday afternoons are going to be set aside to make up labs missed during the previous week. If you miss a lab, you will make it up on Tuesday afterschool of the following week.

Thursday afternoons are set aside for afterschool study sessions. These are times when you can come in and ask specific questions about material in class or get extra help. If you are struggling in class or missing a number of assignments, I may require that you come in so that you can get back on the right track.

Plagiarism & Cheating

The work you do for this class should be your own product. You may consult with classmates when doing homework, but it should always be completed in your own words. Similarly, in-class activities, lab papers, and lab reports must be done in your own words. If you copy answers from a classmate or provide your work for a classmate to copy, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

When doing labs or group activities, you will often work with your lab partners to collect data. Therefore, it is assumed that members of the same lab group will have the same data. However, each lab member MUST analyze the data in his/her own words. If any other portion of the lab report is the same, it is considered cheating.

If you are found to have plagiarized or cheated on any work you hand in, you will receive a zero on the assignment. There are no warnings for this.

Policies on Absences & Tardiness

The school’s policies regarding tardiness and making up work when absent are outlined in the student handbook. Be familiar with those policies. They will be enforced in this class. When you miss class, it is your responsibility to make up work according to the guidelines in the handbook.

Student Signature: ___________________________

Parent Signature: ___________________________