

## Course Overview for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Environmental Science

**Instructor: Julie Wright**

**email: [julie@hillsidesc.org](mailto:julie@hillsidesc.org)** (I always answer within 24 hours, and usually sooner).

**Logistics:** Environmental Science will be offered three times this year. During each trimester there are 3 rotating blocks, A, B and C. This course will be offered in the C-block from 11:40-3 pm in the afternoon. Environmental Science consists of 2 parts. The course is divided up by dates and subjects: Aquatic and Marine Ecology (January 29-February 26)\*

Forest Ecology (April 24-May 16)\*

\* Please note, I may decide to swap the order of these subjects depending on my assessment of the weather and relevant field trips. If you have any input, please let me know.

### Teaching philosophy:

1. **Didactic** – Lectures and class demonstrations.
2. **Storytelling** – Creating motivation and introducing new concepts with stories which help make abstract content more interesting and may help create a context for real-world problem-solving.
3. **Questioning** – Use of questions to stimulate analytical reasoning. Also includes homework, tests and quizzes.
4. **Active engagement** – Use of activities to make learning fun. **We will do field trips that may involve getting wet and muddy. Please dress accordingly for the weather and be prepared to be outside for up to 3 hours a time.**
5. **Responsibility in learning** – I want to help students reach their scientific learning goals, and in order to do this, I will provide accountability that feels fair and anticipated.

### Tentative Grading Outline: *(subject to change)*

30% - tests and quizzes

30% - in-class work

20% - projects and field trip write-ups

20% - all other homework. Late homework will need to be excused by a parent or guardian for an unavoidable absence or family reason. Without some communication from parents/guardians, late homework will receive an equitable penalty.

### How students can succeed in Environmental Science:

1. Come prepared to learn (get 8 hours of sleep, eat breakfast, lunch and dinner without excessive sugar and with plenty of protein, complete homework from previous day, let me know if there are any emotional stressors going on at home or elsewhere that may affect performance)
2. Bring materials to class everyday (pencil, headphones, laptop, composition book\*, planner\* and folder\*, please put completed homework in folder)
3. Ask questions: I want to know if there is any lack of understanding. These blocks are only 16 course days long, and we will delve deeply into the material in a rapid fashion. I will adjust my approach accordingly to aid student learning.
4. Do the homework (expect up to an hour of homework 5 nights per week with the possibility of longer projects once per week, please have a quiet desk or table set up for the student at home in order for them to study). Students will write down their assignments in a planner and assignments will be posted in the Hillside Homework Calendar with the code “Env Sci” at: <http://hscschool.org/community/teacher-pages/course-information/7-11-homework-calendars/>
5. Communicate with me in a timely manner if problems arise so we can come up with solutions.

\* provided by Hillside already.