

Environmental Science 1

Course Description: Do you love the great outdoors? Are you passionate about the environment? Environmental Science is a course that enables students to develop an understanding of the natural environment and the environmental problems the world faces. Students will participate in projects that will explore opportunity to manage, conserve, and preserve our natural resources. This semester will center on human impact on the environment and explore various viewpoints and strategies around maintaining a healthy environment.

Attendance: Students are required to be in school every day. Students are responsible for communicating with their teachers to make up missed learning.

Essential Skills:

1. Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms under stable conditions; however, moderate to extreme fluctuations in conditions may result in new ecosystems.
2. Design, evaluate, and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment and biodiversity.
3. Evaluate the evidence for the role of group behavior on individual and species' chances to survive and reproduce.
4. Have an understanding of current trends in climate change.

Course Expectations: Although not everything is graded, everything is important. In order to demonstrate growth and learning, students will need to:

1. Participate in class activities (take notes, work in a group, complete in-class tasks, ask questions) without distractions (cell phones, ear buds, games, etc.)
2. Use morning time and teacher to seek help outside of class when needed.
3. Complete all assessments within teacher timelines.
4. Daily Routine: Each day, you will enter politely, open up your laptop, and make a plan for the period. The teacher will then take attendance and give announcements and reminders. After that, the remainder of the time will act as an open work time with the teacher coming around to offer help. Additionally, there may be optional activities and presentations you can participate in as you need.

Grading

Learning (Practice) includes instructional activities in and outside of class and are not used in grade determination.

Skyward Assessment (Grades) may include quizzes, labs, learning checks, tests, speeches, performances, and projects.

Calculations:

Course Grade	
Semester Grade	100%
Culminating Activity/Project/Exam	0%

Final Grade	
A	100% - 90%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	0% - 59%

Rapid City Alternative Academy Courses:

- Will determine grades based on student learning and growth.
- Will not include practice and behavior in grade determination.
- Will give all students regardless of absence an opportunity to demonstrate learning.
- Will not include extra credit.

Instructional Resources: Environmental Science, Your World, Your Turn – Withgott – Savvas; Bozeman Scientific APES Youtube Channel; Cadillac Desert Documentary