



# Forsyth County Schools Environmental Science Syllabus 2024/2025



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**Course Description (GaDOE):** The Environmental Science curriculum is designed to extend student investigations that began in grades K-8. This curriculum is extensively performance, lab and field based. It integrates the study of many components of our environment, including the human impact on our planet. Instruction should focus on student data collection and analysis. Some concepts are global; in those cases, interpretation of global data sets from scientific sources is strongly recommended. It would be appropriate to utilize resources on the Internet for global data sets and interactive models. Chemistry, physics, mathematical, and technological concepts should be integrated throughout the course. Whenever possible, careers related to environmental science should be emphasized.

**Standards:** *Course Standards can be found at*

<https://lor2.gadoe.org/gadoe/file/5ade13de-199c-493e-88a7-e441a00ad6a9/1/Science-Environmental-Science-Georgia-Standards.pdf>

**Required Assignments:** *There will be at least 5 unit tests during the course as well as various performance based assessments that require writing, research, and creativity.*

**Required Materials:** *2 composition notebooks (one for each semester), writing utensils, colored pencils, any organizational tool needed to be successful.*

**Availability for Extra Help:** My office hours are on Wednesday mornings and afternoons from 7:45am-8:15am and 3:45pm-4:15pm. I am also available most mornings and evenings by appointment. Student Support time (IF) is also a great time to get help, communication is key!

**Makeup Work:** *Make up work is defined as work assigned during a student's absence, not work assigned prior to an absence. The student has five (5) school days upon returning to school to complete make-up work. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances.*

### **Grading Calculations:**

**Course Average** = 50% (1<sup>st</sup> Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2<sup>nd</sup> Sem. Course Work)

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

### **Grading Policy:**

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

*Formative Assessments include, but are not limited to, homework, class work, labs, investigations, practice tests, rough drafts, and sections of projects/research papers/presentations.*

*Summative Assessments include, but are not limited to, unit tests, final projects, final essays, formal lab reports, final research papers, and final presentations.*

## Academic Integrity

- *It is the expectation of Forsyth County Schools that students exhibit academic integrity when submitting evidence of learning. When students submit evidence that does not authentically represent what they know and can do, the evidence is rendered invalid. Examples of academic dishonesty are outlined in both the Family Engagement Guide & Student Handbook and The Forsyth County Schools Code of Conduct. Depending on the severity of the situation, academic dishonesty/cheating may result in the loss of credit, completing an alternative assignment and/or disciplinary consequences up to a tribunal referral.*

**Learning Resources/Textbook(s):** All learning resources, both print and digital, are meant to support and enhance the student learning experience in this class. Below are the names of the textbooks and websites that will be used in this course. Some of the web-based resources require parent permission per federal regulations. Federal laws that guide parent permission requirements are as follows:

- **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA):** The school is required by CIPA to have technology measures and policies in place that protect students from harmful materials including those that are obscene and pornographic. Any harmful content contained within inappropriate sites will be blocked.  
<http://fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html>
- **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA):** COPPA applies to commercial companies and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under 13 years of age. No personal student information is collected for commercial purposes.  
<https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/complying-coppa-frequently-asked-questions-0>
- **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** FERPA protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents the right to review records. Under FERPA, schools may disclose directory information in certain circumstances.  
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa>

Please review the resource list. Each website related to the curriculum resources is provided along with its privacy policies. Should you have any questions regarding these resources, immediately contact the course teacher via email or phone.

| Name of Resource*  | Hard copy/Website   | Privacy Policy  |
|--|---|---|
| Holt, Rinehart & Winston<br><i>Environmental Science</i> | Class set of textbooks                                    | Not applicable  |
| Explore Learning   | Digital supplemental material<br>(accessed via ClassLink) | <a href="https://www.explorelearning.com/index.cfm?method=Controller.dspPrivacy">https://www.explorelearning.com/index.cfm?method=Controller.dspPrivacy</a> |
| Pivot Interactives                                       | Digital supplemental material<br>(accessed via ClassLink) | <a href="https://www.pivotinteractives.com/privacy-policy">https://www.pivotinteractives.com/privacy-policy</a>   |
| Discovery Education                                      | Digital supplemental material<br>(accessed via ClassLink) | <a href="https://www.discoveryeducation.com/privacy-policy/">https://www.discoveryeducation.com/privacy-policy/</a>   |

**\* The following resources are county approved. These resources may vary by school due to sequencing, pacing, curriculum design, and/or individual needs of students.**

| Name of Resource*  | Hard copy/Website   | Privacy Policy  |
|--|---|---|
| Holt, Rinehart & Winston<br><i>Environmental Science</i> | Class set of textbooks                                    | Not applicable  |
| Explore Learning   | Digital supplemental material<br>(accessed via ClassLink) | <a href="https://www.explorelearning.com/index.cfm?method=Controller.dspPrivacy">https://www.explorelearning.com/index.cfm?method=Controller.dspPrivacy</a> |
| Newsela  | Digital supplemental material<br>(accessed via ClassLink) | <a href="https://newsela.com/about/privacy-policy/">https://newsela.com/about/privacy-policy/</a>   |
| Pivot Interactives                                       | Digital supplemental material<br>(accessed via ClassLink) | <a href="https://www.pivotinteractives.com/privacy-policy">https://www.pivotinteractives.com/privacy-policy</a>   |
| Discovery Education                                      | Digital supplemental material<br>(accessed via ClassLink) | <a href="https://www.discoveryeducation.com/privacy-policy/">https://www.discoveryeducation.com/privacy-policy/</a>   |

**\*\* The following resources are web-based resources that require parent permission. By signing the syllabus, the parent is approving these resources. Should you have any questions regarding any of these classroom resources, please contact your student's teacher via email.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read this course syllabus and approve of its contents. I agree to allow my student to use each of the classroom resources listed in the learning resource section. I will support my student in following the classroom expectations outlined in this course syllabus. I agree that I am the person who is legally allowed to consent for my student, whose name is listed below.

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Student's Name (Print)

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Parent's Name (Print)

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Parent Signature

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Date