

# **Public Academy for Performing Arts**

## **Class Syllabus**

### **Environmental Science (Full Virtual)**

#### *Teacher Information*

Teacher: Mr. Ramirez

Room #7

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Teacher website: <https://googleclassroom.com>

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Office hours: To begin this virtual year, I will be making Fridays my office hours. I will be available from approximately 8:00 AM-4:00 PM for scheduled appointments. To schedule a meeting, just email me anytime prior and I will send you a zoom link. I will also be at my computer and responding daily, however you should only expect a response as early as the next school day. Most of my replies will be same day if the original question is sent before 4:00 PM.

#### *Course Description*

In this class, we will explore the processes that occur in our world and how we have and can continue affecting them. We will incorporate labs, group work, research projects, and various other methods of discovery to learn the tools of science, methods of scientists, and learn how to better take care of this one and only planet we call home. Preparation, attendance, hard work, and a good attitude are the main requirements for a successful year of Environmental Science.

For our full virtual learning system you will be expected to participate in zoom classes as well as complete any work that is posted to Google Classroom. I will go into more detail in the “Zoom Classes” and “Independent work” sections.

#### *Zoom Sessions T/Th*

Students in my Environmental Science will be expected to attend Zoom sessions approximately twice a week. These sessions will begin at the time of the period; 7<sup>th</sup> period starts at 2:24 and we will begin our classes at 2:30 for simplicities sake . Expect these sessions to last approximately 30-45 minutes but know that they may take more or less time.

Environmental Science will have sessions on Tuesday and Thursday's.

These days will only change in case of holidays that fall on a Tuesday or Thursday and you will be notified of the changed date at least a week prior to the change. You are still expected to attend the Zoom session if the date is modified. Only the day of the week may change, not the time.

During Zoom sessions you will be expected to complete a “bell ringer” at the beginning of the meeting. These will be posted to Google Classroom in the assignments page and must be completed in a timely manner. Besides your bell ringer, expect the class session to include review and practice of current content topics. This may look like lecture, class discussion, small group work/discussion, demonstrations of experiments, among other activities. There will also be time in every class for dedicated Q & A.

You will be expected to be present throughout the entirety of every Zoom session. If you happen to miss a session, either excused or not, you may request a recording of the class but may or may not (based on the reason for the absence) receive credit for the session.

You will also be expected to ***Be Present*** for the Zoom sessions. That means that you are participating in all aspects of the session and are free from distractions to the best of your abilities. You must be able to turn on your mic and camera for times when you are asked to share with either partners, small groups, or the class.

### *Non-Zoom days M/W/F*

On days that you are not present in a Zoom class, you will be expected to work on any class work posted to Google classroom during your classes meeting time (7<sup>th</sup> period from 2:24-3:18). This may look like reviewing or taking some type of lecture notes, completing webquests, working on digital worksheets, working on independent or group projects, playing games posted, doing readings, watching videos, etc....

Work that is expected for you to complete for the week will be posted to Google Classroom by Mondays. This will include any homework/assignments as well as content notes/media. Assignments will be due by Fridays at 11:59 PM. There may be messages on assignments with a suggested do-by date, but they will only be marked late if not completed by Friday at 11:59. One exception to this rule are

Zoom bell-ringers which will be posted at the beginning of the Zoom class and will only be open for a certain amount of time (5-10 minutes). The other exception is for assessments.

Fridays will be office hours and assessment days. Assessments will be posted on Friday mornings and must be completed independently by Saturday at 11:59 PM. Some of these may be able to be redone to achieve a higher score but not all of them.

Office hours will be virtual appointments on Zoom that must be arranged ahead of schedule. I will also try to respond to all emails asking for help especially quickly on Fridays between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

### *Google Classroom*

Google Classroom will be the primary class website. All assignments, resources, links, etc. will be posted to Google Classroom. Students are expected to check their Google Classroom daily and parents are suggested to check it once or twice a week. Zoom links, resources, assessments/assessment links and assignments will all be posted in the "Assignments" tab and placed into weekly topic folders.

### *Skills and Major Topics Covered*

Environmental Science is a year-long course designed to show thematic connections between a variety of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, and physics. It gives students a coherent and realistic picture of the applications of a variety of scientific concepts as they manifest in our environment. This years curriculum will follow the End of Course (EOC) blueprints specifically.

### *Next Gen Science Standards and Curriculum Map*

This class is taught with a few core ideas in mind. They are that students should be taught what will be covered on the End of Course Exam, students should be prepared for the New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR), students should be prepared for entry level science courses at the post high school level, and students should be taught science in a way that makes them think critically of the world around them. I will be following as much as possible the End of Course Blueprints that NMPED has put out. The blueprints follows the newly adopted Next Gen Science Standards, and should be a good road map for success in the current testing format. It is as follows.

<b>Photosynthesis</b>	HS – LS1 – 5	
	HS – LS2 – 5	
<b>Recycling and Regeneration</b>	HS – ESS2 – 1	
	HS – ESS2 - 3	
	HS – ESS2 – 6	
	HS-LS2-4	
<b>Ecosystems</b>	HS – ESS2 - 2	
	HS – ESS2 - 4	
	HS – ESS2 - 5	
	HS-LS2-1	
	HS-LS2-2	
	HS-LS2-7	
	HS-LS2-7 NM	
	HS-ETS1-3	
<b>Population &amp; Growth Studies</b>	HS-ESS2-7	
	HS-LS2-6	
	HS-LS2-8	
<b>Pollution</b>	HS-ESS3-6	
	HS-LS4-5	
	HS-LS4-6	
	HS-ESS1-5	
		HS-ETS1-2
<b>Conservation of Natural Resources</b>		HS-ESS3-1
		HS-ESS3-2
		HS-ESS3-3
		HS-ESS3-4
		HS-ETS1-1
		HS-SS2-NM

### *Textbooks*

There are no textbooks for this course this year. This was a strategic choice to better implement new teaching tactics and better allocate funds.

### *Materials Necessary*

Every student will need one notebook to copy notes and answer bell ringers into. Students will also be required to have one folder or binder to store their in. Students are expected to come to class every day with pens and pencils.

### *Late Work/ Make-up Work*

Late work should not be much of an issue with our current set up. Regular assignments will be posted by Mondays with suggested due dates and actual due dates of the same Fridays at 11:59 PM. That means that you will have access to the assignments for 5 days at least. You are expected to use class period time not in Zoom sessions to complete this work but may need to spend more time outside of the class period. Any assignments that are not turned in by Friday at 11:59 PM will be marked off 15% for every day that it is late unless there are extenuating circumstances that were clearly and promptly communicated to myself. Assessments follow the same protocol except they will be posted on Friday and be due by Saturday at 11:59 PM.

Bell Ringers will be posted in Google Classroom at the beginning of each Zoom session and must be done at that time. If you miss your class, you miss the assignment and will receive a zero. Once again, exceptions can only be made if Extenuating Circumstances have been communicated to myself.

### *Grading*

Grading will consist of a total point system, in which all grades , unless otherwise stated, will be of an equal weighting. Semester grades will consist of 40% period 1, 40% period 2, and 20% final exam.

For virtual learning ***all work should be turned into Google Classroom*** unless otherwise stated. I will do spot grading through Google Classroom throughout the week leading up to the weekend. At that point, either on Saturday or Sunday, I will transfer all Google Classroom grades to Powerschool. Please check your grades on Google Classroom and on Powerschool at least once a week.

The grading scale will go as follows.

Letter Grade	Percentage Points
A+	100 – 97
A	96.9 – 93
A-	92.9 – 90
B+	89.9 – 87
B	86.9 – 83
B-	82.9 – 80
C+	79.9 – 77
C	76.9 – 73
C-	72.9 – 70
D+	69.9 – 67
D	66.9 – 63
D-	62.9 – 60
F	Below 60

### *Extra Credit*

Extra credit is a privilege not a right. I will offer extra credit at my own discretion. This may be in the form of test/assignment corrections, extra assignments, presentations, or attendance of off-campus lectures.

### *Class Expectations*

Students are always expected to follow a strict set of class norms in my classroom .

- 1) Be respectful of your peers your teachers, and all faculty in the school.
- 2) Be fully prepared to learn every day in class. This includes having a good mindset in addition to having all necessary supplies and work ready.
- 3) Participate. It is necessary for scientists, and students, to be able to work together and collaborate.

Besides the class norms listed above, there are a few more behavioral policies. They are...

- ~~*Food and Drink Policy*~~

Students may not eat in my class unless they have received prior permission from myself (not very likely). You may finish your snacks before entering my class or place them on the side ledge by the entrance until you leave. Students may drink water freely. Anything else must be

in a spill resistant container (soda with a cap or bottle that snaps/locks shut).

- Students caught eating in class or drinking anything other than water in non spill resistant containers will receive the following punishments.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offence: A warning and instructions to place food/drink inside of classroom.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offence: Student will come into class during lunch to vacuum the area student was eating/drinking. Parents will also be notified.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offence: Student will come into class during lunch to vacuum half of the classroom. Parents will be notified.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> or greater offence: Student will vacuum entire classroom, parents will be notified and administration will be alerted.

#### • ~~Trash Throwing~~

Trash should not be thrown in class. If I witness trash being thrown, then the student will follow the consequences listed above for eating/drinking in class in addition to picking trash up from the floor immediately. Yes even if you make it into the trashcan.

#### • ~~Laptop Usage~~

Students will be assigned a laptop for use in the class. You must only use your assigned laptop unless otherwise told to do so. While using the laptop students may not visit youtube, facebook, snapchat, gaming sites, or any other site other than what the student has been instructed to visit unless otherwise stated by the teacher. Students are also expected to take care of their laptops while using them. This includes holding them not by the screen, keeping food/drinks away, and generally being careful with them. Once finished with your laptop, it should be placed back into the COW in the correct numbered position and charging.

Students may also check out laptops outside of their normal class time only if a laptop is available. Students must request and get approval by myself, sign out/in the laptop, and return the laptop into the correct numbered position and charging.

Failure to follow laptop procedures will result in a combination of class vacuuming's, loss of laptop privileges, and parent notifications.