

ACADEMY OF RICHMOND COUNTY
Environmental Science Syllabus 2025-26

Teacher: Mrs. Ani

E-mail: Appajna@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Phone : 404 956 9683



Course Description

Environmental Science in Richmond County is an interdisciplinary high school course that explores the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the natural environment and the impact of human activity on it. Students will investigate ecological systems, biodiversity, natural resources, pollution, and sustainability. The course emphasizes scientific inquiry, data analysis, and problem-solving skills to address environmental challenges. Through laboratory experiments, fieldwork, and project-based learning, students will develop an awareness of environmental issues and learn strategies for responsible stewardship and conservation.

Textbook

Title: *Principles of Environmental Science*

Author: Cunningham & Cunningham

Publisher: Mc Graw- Hill

Supplemental Materials: Classroom, online simulations, case studies, lab kits.

Unit/Concept Names

0. Think Like a Scientist
1. Planet Earth
2. Rhythms of Planet Earth
3. Humans on Earth
4. Sustaining Planet Earth

Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities

- Field study: Local ecosystem analysis
- Lab investigations aligned with College Board requirements
- Environmental ethics debate
- Sustainability design challenge
- Data analysis and scientific writing
- Practice exams and FRQs (Free Response Questions)

ACADEMY OF RICHMOND COUNTY
Environmental Science Syllabus 2025-26

Teacher: Mrs. Ani

E-mail: Appajna@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Phone : 404 956 9683



Course work/Classwork

Students will engage in a variety of assignments—including classwork, lab reports, collaborative projects, and individual practice—designed to build content knowledge and strengthen scientific skills. These assignments are essential for reinforcing classroom instruction and allowing students to demonstrate mastery of the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Biology. If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to check their respective classroom or consult the teacher to obtain and complete missed assignments within the allowed time frame.

Students are expected to **submit all work on time**, as this demonstrates pride, personal responsibility, and a strong work ethic—qualities emphasized in the **RCSS Profile of a Graduate**. Timely completion of work promotes better understanding and academic achievement. Late submissions may hinder learning and affect a student's ability to fully demonstrate mastery of course standards.

Additionally, when assignments are designed to assess **original student thinking**, the use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to generate responses is **not permitted**. While AI tools may be appropriately used during research or idea development, using AI to **complete assignments on behalf of the student** is considered **Academic Dishonesty** and will be addressed in accordance with the RCBOE Code of Conduct.

See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices for more details.

Late Work (Grading Policy- See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices)

Students may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). **Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher's discretion.**

Make-Up Work (Grading Policy)

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher **[Insert your specific procedural guidance here]**.

ACADEMY OF RICHMOND COUNTY
Environmental Science Syllabus 2025-26

Teacher: Mrs. Ani

E-mail: Appajna@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Phone : 404 956 9683



Evaluation (Grading Policy)

- Minor Grades (Quizzes, Class work, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, etc.)
- Major Grades (Unit & Chapter Test, Projects, Tasks)

Category	Weightage
Assessments	40%
Labs & Projects	30%
Classwork/Homework	20%
Participation	10%

Base Grade Reporting scale and Rubrics

Grade	Description	Percentage Range	Standards-Based Scale
A	Exemplary/Advanced Understanding	90–100%	4 – Advanced
B	Proficient	80–89%	3 – Proficient
C	Basic/Developing Understanding	70–79%	2 – Developing
D	Limited Understanding	60–69%	1 – Beginning
F	Not Meeting Standard	<60%	0 – No Evidence

Relearn and Reassess Plan

For any major assessments, students will have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students will be given a minimum of **ONE** opportunity to be reassessed. Only students scoring below 70 on a major assessment can complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval. Reassessments may be different from the original. The reassessment score will replace the original score (the scores will not be averaged). Reassessments should be completed **within 7 school days** of receiving the original grade. Teachers should have discretion to extend the timeline to address extenuating circumstances.

ACADEMY OF RICHMOND COUNTY
Environmental Science Syllabus 2025-26

Teacher: Mrs. Ani

E-mail: Appajna@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Phone : 404 956 9683



Classroom Procedures & Expectations

The overarching expectation in this class is to represent WAR (Wholehearted, Accountable, Respectful). Below are the expectations for the W.A.R. in 611 class!

Wholehearted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Come prepared and engaged• Take initiative in your learning• Be present, prepared, and fully engaged.
Accountable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit work on time• Own your actions and learning choices• Take ownership of your learning and behavior.
Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen actively to peers and teacher• Respect materials, space, and differences in opinion• Treat classmates, the teacher, and materials responsibly.

Course Materials

Students are expected to bring the following to class **every day**:

- 3" 3-ring Binder
- 1½–2-inch binder or organized section in a larger binder for Environmental Science
- College-ruled notebook or composition book (for interactive notes/labs)
- Blue or black pens, pencils, and highlighters
- Chromebook or laptop fully charged
- Textbook
- Calculator (basic or scientific for data analysis)

Resources:

- Textbook: *Principles of Environmental Science*, McGraw Hill
- Access: Provided in print and digital formats
- Digital Portal: Students will receive login credentials to access online content, interactive assignments, videos, and assessments through McGraw Hill Connect ED.

ACADEMY OF RICHMOND COUNTY
Environmental Science Syllabus 2025-26

Teacher: Mrs. Ani

E-mail: Appajna@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Phone : 404 956 9683



Student Contract: I understand that all work should be completed on time. I understand that my teacher may deduct five points per day and communicate this in my Infinite Campus gradebook. I also understand that work turned in after the learning has occurred may not be graded (no more than 5 school days from the due date). I understand that using Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where I am asked to produce original work will be considered Academic Dishonesty.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Contract: I understand that my child is expected to complete assignments on time. I will remain in communication with my child's teacher and monitor missing and late work as noted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If my child continues to submit work late, I understand that a parent-teacher conference will be needed to co-develop a plan of action. I understand that my child should not use Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where students are asked to produce original work.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____