**Willowridge High School Environmental Systems Course Syllabus**

**PURPOSE OF COURSE**: The Environmental Systems course is designed to enable a better understanding of human impact on our surroundings and the environmental needs of the future.  Students study a variety of topics that include: biotic and abiotic factors in habitats; ecosystems and biomes; interrelationships among resources and an environmental system; sources and flow of energy through an environmental system; relationships between carrying capacity and changes in populations and ecosystems.  Lab work, the use of multimedia and computer simulations, and laboratory and field investigations are important components of this course.

**Teacher Name:** Mrs. McDougle-Pratt

**Room Number:** H206

**Contact information:** Email me at tara.mcdougle@fortbendisd.com

# Tutorials: By appointment only (Tutorials will be on Thursdays from 3:00-4:00pm

Please do not wait until the day before (or morning of!) a test to ask for help. Be proactive. When you do not understand something, come in and ask.

# General Assessment and Grade Calculation

**Daily Grades**: Homework, mini quizzes, labs, Reading assignments etc. = 50%

**Major Grades**: Tests, Projects, and formal lab reports = 50%

\*\*All tests and quizzes are cumulative, which means the material can come from any unit we have covered. \*\*

*You can access your grades online anytime by logging in to skyward Q. Please contact the front office if you do not have your login information.*

# Course Outline/Topics

**Fall Semester Spring Semester**

Lab Safety/ Experimental Design Climate Change

Abiotic Cycles Environmental Legislation

Ecosystems Impact of Natural Events

Biomes Energy Resources

Populations and Biodiversity Commercial Activities and Environmental Issues

Water, Air, and Land My Plant Earth (Projects, Speakers, Careers)

Pollution

**Online Textbook Access**: Your biology textbook will be in e-book format, accessible with your tablet or home computer.

To access your e-text please go to [http://my.hrw.com](http://my.hrw.com/) . (DO NOT PUT www). Username and password will be given to you once everyone gets loaded in to the system. Once they do get set, write them down below

Username:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Password:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Projects**: Projects are another assessment tool used in Environmental Systems. These give students another method of demonstrating their level of understanding of a topic and allow students to express themselves in a creative manner. Students will be provided class time to research topics and work on projects; however, time will be required outside of school hours to work on projects. For those who wish to stay after school to complete their projects, resources are available at the library and in my classroom during tutorial hours.

# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. Be in **YOUR SEAT** ready to work when the bell rings
2. Bring all your materials to class **EVERYDAY**
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
4. No eating or drinking in the classroom
5. Always Be **COURTEOUS** and **RESPECTFUL** to others
6. Cell phones need to be **TURNED OFF,** **OUT OF REACH, AND OUT OF SIGHT**.
7. Listen attentively while people are speaking; don’t interrupt.
8. Raise your hand and wait for recognition before you begin speaking.
9. Do not engage in distracting behaviors: noises, movements, comments, etc.
10. Don’t get up and move around the room without permission.
11. Enter and leave the classroom without disrupting the learning environment.
12. Don’t be loud.
13. Don’t touch/take the things in/on the teacher’s desk/work area
14. The use of cellphones (earbuds, smart watches) will not be allowed in the classroom/school. **STATE MANDATE**

# MAKE-UP WORK & LATE WORK

If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to get all work that was missed.

For each day you are absent, you have one day to make up the work.

 If you know you will be absent, ask for work before you leave.

**HOMEWORK**: Any homework is due the first 5 minutes of class, any homework turned in after the first 5 minutes is considered LATE WORK. If you are seen completing homework, copying homework or loaning your homework to others, you will get a ZERO on the assignment.

**EXTRA CREDIT**: Extra credit is offered in this class throughout the year. All extra credit work will be announced by the teacher.

**FAILED TESTS**: If you make below a 74 on an exam, you will be required to attend tutorials, relearn the material, and then retake the exam for a maximum of a 75 on that exam. Retakes will be a different exam.

# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating will not be tolerated in any form. You are expected to earn your own grade in this class by doing your own work. All assignments must be done independently unless approval from teacher is given. Daily grade assignments will be given zeros when cheating is obvious. Cheating will result in calls home and office referrals. The Student Honor Code will apply to all major grades.

# TARDIES

If you are not **IN THE CLASSROOM** when the bell rings you are tardy. Please go to the tardy station for a tardy pass.

# RESTROOM/ NURSE

Please try to take care of personal matters during passing periods or during lunch. You will not be allowed to leave my class the **first and last 10 minutes** of class for restroom trips. You are only allowed **3 restroom passes** out of my class **per 9 weeks**, so use them wisely.