**Environmental Science**

**Mrs. Nairuti Patel**

**(Room no. 615)**

**Course Syllabus 2025-2026**

**Course Description**

Welcome to Environmental Science! I am very excited to engage you in the many topics concerning our environment. During this course, students will focus on human population growth, natural resources, and ecosystem dynamics. The aim of this course is to increase students’ knowledge of the environmental challenges of today, while continuing to cultivate scientific critical thinking skills. I believe your experience in environmental science will be one to remember— the labs are engaging, and the content is a great segway into upper-level scientific thinking. This course is based on the curriculum guidelines provided by the State of Georgia under the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for Chemistry.

**Unit/Concept Names**

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| ● Lab Safety ● Ecosystems ● Succession & Biodiversity● Climate Change ● Human Population Growth  | ● Human Impact and Solutions ● Allocation & Availability of Energy Resources ● Conservation & Sustainability of Energy Resources ● Ecological Footprints |

**Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities**

At least one STEM project will be assigned each semester. This will be an extension or enrichment of the concepts discussed. Students will have entire semester to complete each project.

**Course work/Classwork**

Students will receive a variety of assignments designed to enhance their learning. If a student is absent, the student is responsible for the missed assignment.

Students are expected to submit work on time. Doing so exhibits pride in producing quality work and fulfilling student responsibility. This work habit is a behavior that supports academic achievement and demonstrates characteristics from our Richmond County School System Profile of a Graduate. Late work can negatively impact learning and your ability to demonstrate mastery of the standards.

When the assignment calls for students to produce original work, students will not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate the assignment for them. Assignments are given to help students learn and demonstrate what they know. While there may be appropriate times for students to use AI during the learning process, using AI to generate original work in place of the student completing the work, is considered Academic Dishonesty and Consequences for academic dishonesty can include a verbal warning, intervention meeting, parent notification,
parent/student/instructor conference, and/or discipline referral.

**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. Students who miss assignments due to absence will be given the same amount of work days as their peers had. Note: This may be as few as 1-2 days.

**Evaluation (Grading Policy)**

Students will be assessed on a regular basis throughout the duration of this course. Students are evaluated on their level of performance on various learning activities that align with the Science Georgia Standards of Excellence for Chemistry.
The grading breakdown is as follows:

* Minor Grades -60% (Quizzes, Class work, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, Labs, etc.)
* Major Grades -40% (Unit & Chapter Test, Projects, Labs)

**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.

**Electronic Devices**

* Laptops are permitted in class for academic activities only.
* Devices such as cell phones, tablets, headphones, earbuds, AirPods, smart watches and other digital accessories are not to be used in the classroom/lab unless authorized by a RCSS district official.
* We are to abide by the Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices Policy as stated in the RCSS Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Rule 16. Noncompliance or failure to adhere to this policy will

result in disciplinary action from school administrators, teachers, and/or staff. If a student brings any of these items to school and they are damaged or lost, the school and teacher are not to be held responsible.

**Lab Safety**

* Safety in the science classroom and labs an important part of the scientific process. Students will be asked to follow the lab safety guidelines set in the Flinn Scientific Student Safety Contract and other safety guidelines as directed by the teacher.
* Failure to comply with lab safety rules will result in removal from the lab. Further action may be taken by the teacher based on the behavior displayed by the student.

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

**Be in your seat ready to learn** when the bell rings. Your supplies should be on your desk.  **You will not be allowed to leave for any reason after the bell rings.**

**Class Material:**

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| **Required:** | **Recommended:** | **General classroom supplies requested via donation:** |
| * Composition notebook
* School Computer
* Folders (2)
* Pen or Pencil
 | * Highlighter
* Scientific calculator
* Crayons/sketch pens
 | * Kleenex Hand sanitizer
* Facial tissues
* Disinfecting wipes to clean student’s desk
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\*\*\* Additional supplies may be needed, but adequate notice will be provided. \*\*\*

**Tutoring**-I am available for tutoring and make-up work most Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school (from 3:15 – 3:50 PM) with prior appointment.

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

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| **Wholehearted** | * Students will actively participate in their own educational experience and be their own advocates.
* Students will use their time wisely and work for the whole class period to not fall behind.
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| **Accountable** | * Students will be prepared for class (e.g. In assigned seat, in possession of all required materials, attentive)
* Students will complete work in the time allotted and not spend it with frivolous or distracting behavior.
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| **Respectful** | * Students will follow class rules and will listen to redirection.
* Students will show respect for themselves, classmates, and the teacher.
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| **Classroom consequences for minor infractions:**• 1st Offense- Redirection/ Warning • 2nd Offense – Teacher/ Student Conference (Documented in Infinite Campus) • 3rd Offense- Relocation/ Parent Call (Documented in Infinite Campus) • 4th Offense- Detention • 5th Offense- Referral**\*\*Major infractions will result in behavior referral\*\*** |

**Communication**

Students are expected to stay current with information regarding this class. Announcements will primarily be presented during scheduled class time. Students can also anticipate announcements being posted on Canvas, sent to their student email, canvas email, and through the Remind app.

Parents may also be contacted by phone, text, or email to discuss matters pertaining to their student. Student and parents are welcome to reach out to the teacher using any of the methods mentioned above. It is also recommended that parents/guardians monitor student progress through Infinite Campus. If revisions are
made to this syllabus or the course to ensure quality instruction, students, and parents will be notified.

**My contact information:**

Email: patelna1@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

To sign up for class reminders:

Text appropriate code to 81010

Period 2: @evsna2

Period 3: @evsna3

Period 7: @evsna7

**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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_