

# Environmental Science Course Syllabus

2025-2026

Mrs. Castings Room 401

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Villa Rica High School

## Course Objectives

The Environmental Science curriculum is designed to facilitate student investigations of the natural world and the interactions between living and nonliving things on the planet. Also, throughout the course, students will acquire an understanding of the general characteristics of science through activities and laboratory investigations. A general pacing guide is listed below.

<u>1st 9 weeks:</u>	<u>2nd 9 weeks:</u>	<u>3rd 9 weeks:</u>	<u>4th 9 weeks:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biodiversity</li><li>• Food Chains/Webs</li><li>• Ecosystem Structure</li><li>• Succession</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Terrestrial and Aquatic Biomes</li><li>• Adaptations</li><li>• Impacts on Aquatic Biomes</li><li>• Cycling of Matter</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Renewable and Nonrenewable Energy</li><li>• Human Population Growth</li><li>• Effects of Human Innovations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solutions to Reduce Human Impact</li><li>• Quality of Life in Developing and Developed Countries</li></ul>

## Grading

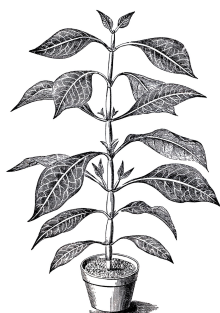
The curriculum for this course has been outlined by Georgia Standards of Excellence. Students must demonstrate mastery of these standards by way of Quizzes and/or Unit Tests. Grading will be cumulative for the semester and is weighted as follows:

Mastery of Standards (quizzes and tests).....60%  
Labs and Daily Work.....40%

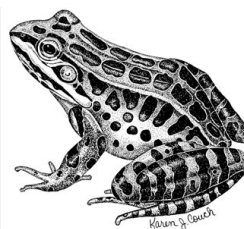
Students will have the opportunity to retake any failed quizzes for a maximum score of 70. This can be done during the designated class time, or in after school tutoring, held at the student's request. A request for tutoring must be made 24 hours in advance. I am also available after school until 3:45 for quick questions.

## Required materials:

- 3-ringed binder
- College ruled notebook paper
- Pens (black and blue only)
- Pencils with erasers (Try to come to class with more than one pencil at a time)



*I can't wait to learn  
Environmental  
Science!*



## Policies and Procedures

1. **When you have a question:** Raise your hand, and I will be glad to answer it. If it is an inappropriate time to ask the question or you feel uncomfortable asking it, you can ask me after class.
2. **To leave your seat:** If for any reason you need to leave your seat (to sharpen your pencil, go to the restroom, an emergency, etc.), raise your hand and ask for permission before leaving your seat.
3. **When you need to go to the restroom:** Raise your hand for permission, and sign out in the back of the room as you leave. Remember that restroom passes are to be used sparingly and you will need to talk with me if you are going too frequently.
4. **You must be prepared daily:** You are expected to be prepared with your notebook, writing utensil, and chromebook every day. All other personal belongings must be stored under your desk.
5. **Late Work:** On the due date of any assignment, work must be turned in at the beginning of class. Anything not turned in at that time will not be accepted for full credit. Each day that your work is late, 10% will be deducted from your assignment grade. Work will **not** be accepted after the assessment for that unit/content.
6. **When You Are Absent:** You can find your missing assignments in Google Classroom. If you don't see anything there, talk to me on the day you return. You have 2 days to make up any assignments that you missed for full credit. After this time, the normal late policy will be applied. An alternative assignment may be given when appropriate. Work will **not** be accepted after a week from the time it is collected.
7. **Food and drink:** Nothing but water is allowed in the lab. In the classroom, food and drinks are ok, as long as trash makes it into the trash can. If issues arise, there may be a ban on food and drinks.
8. **Laboratory behavior:** Appropriate laboratory behavior is expected at all times. Any unsafe or off-task behavior will result in dismissal from the lab area and a possible grade of zero. Loss of all lab privileges may result.
9. **Cheating:** Cheating of any kind on any assignment will result in a non-negotiable grade of zero. This also includes using AI to write any part of any assignment that you are given.
10. **Cell Phones:** Because of the distraction they create, cell phones are not allowed to be out in class for any reason..

**\*Noncompliance with any expectation will result in disciplinary action, as outlined in the VRHS student handbook**

***Please email me or call me if you have any questions or concerns.***

***Thanks, Chelsey Castings***

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**Class Period:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*After reading the above syllabus, please sign below:**

**Student: (print)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(sign)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent: (print)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(sign)** \_\_\_\_\_