



# Riverside High School Course Syllabus

## 2025-2026

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday (8 am - 8:30 am) or Monday or Wednesday (3:45 - 4:15 pm) - By Appointment only

### The Advanced Placement Environmental Science Course:

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to engage students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. The course requires students to identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with them, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

### College Course Equivalent:

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester introductory college course in environmental science. Students will potentially earn college credit depending on their score on the AP exam at the end of the year. The required score for earning credit and the amount of credit earned varies by college. Please visit

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies> to search for the number of credit hours earned, the course title for which credit is earned, and the required minimum score on the AP exam for different colleges and universities.

### The AP Exam:

The AP Environmental Science Exam date for 2025 is Friday, May 15th at 8:00 am. The exam consists of two parts. The first part is multiple choice and consists of 80 questions. Students will have 90 minutes to work on this portion. The second part is a free-response section. This section consists of three questions, each with multiple parts. Students will have 70 minutes to work on this portion. The score on the multiple-choice section is 60% of the exam score, and the score on the free response section is 40% of the exam score. The student's final exam score will be between 1 and 5, and the College Board makes the following recommendations to colleges and universities for awarding credit:

AP SCORE	CREDIT RECOMMENDATION	COLLEGE GRADE EQUIVALENT
5	Extremely well qualified	A
4	Well qualified	A-, B+, B
3	Qualified	B-, C+, C
2	Possibly qualified	n/a
1	No recommendation	n/a

### Materials:

- Chromebooks
- 3 Ringed binder and dividers - you MUST keep your LABS in case a college asks for them
- Calculator—Calculators are permitted on the AP exam. Students should obtain a calculator of their own to be comfortable using it.
- Earbuds
- Highlighter
- Pens and pencils

### Textbook:

The textbook issued to students for this class is Environmental Science for the AP® Course, 3rd Edition by Andrew Friedland. In addition to the textbook, we will use a variety of supplemental videos, readings, and other resources. You will be notified at the beginning of the week if the textbook is required in class. All other resources are available via Google Classroom.

**Keeping a binder:** You must keep an organized binder for AP Environmental Science. It is very helpful to have all notes, handouts, completed assignments, and returned assessments organized by unit. This will serve as your “abridged textbook” to support activities and labs throughout class. You will need to keep your labs together as you may be asked by a college to see them later.

### Managing Assignments:

Each student is responsible for managing his or her assignments. Please reference the lesson plans and course calendar on my website regularly. It is highly recommended that you keep a planner to record due dates and upcoming assessments.

### Grading:

- 40% Minor assessments - Edpuzzles, quizzes, labs, and progress checks
- 60% Major assessments- tests and projects

**Absences:** You are responsible for learning content taught when you are absent. It will be assessed.

All assignments are posted daily on the lesson plans and calendar found on my website. Zeros will be entered in the grade book on PowerSchool for missing assignments at the time that assignment grades are entered but will be replaced with earned scores upon your return and submission of graded assignments. Missed quizzes can be made up before or after school. Missed tests can be made up on Tuesdays or Thursdays after school. All assignments must be made up within five days of returning from the absence.

**IMPORTANT:** If you are absent from a lab, you are still responsible for completing the lab using TEACHER-PROVIDED mock data and visuals recorded during the lab. These materials MUST be obtained from the teacher. You may not copy your lab groups' data unless given direct permission. Failure to obtain mock data will result in no credit for the lab assignment.

**Policy for Late Submission of Assignments:** Many assignments that are graded for effort/completion are checked visually and then answers are discussed/posted to Google Classroom. Some assignments will be completed in class before class ends. Students are STRONGLY encouraged to put sincere effort into developing thorough, thoughtful, and well-researched responses. As a result, some assignments may require students to finish at home. In this case, it is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Late work will be accepted with a 20-point per day deduction up to, but not past, the unit test.

**Academic Honesty:** Many resources are available to help us learn and complete assignments. In this class, we will learn how to use those resources appropriately. For assignments where the expectation is for you to perform from memory and unassisted by resources, the penalty for inappropriately using resources will be to earn a zero. If it is discovered that students have collaborated inappropriately on an assignment, no credit will be given for the assignment, and parents will be notified.

## **Procedures:**

**Beginning of Class:** Students are expected to be in their seats immediately after the bell, completing the Bellwork.

**Dismissal:** Students are to remain working until class has concluded. Students will be given the last five of every class period to wrap up, pack up, and relax before continuing to their next class except in the event of extenuating circumstances.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones for personal, non-instructional use are prohibited in class per GCSD policy.

If you need to use your phone to communicate with a parent, etc., please inform me, and you can step outside to do so. Cell phone use in class interrupts our mental presence and the flow of the class. If you do not follow this policy, a warning will be issued before I submit a referral.

**Restroom / Water Fountain:** Ideally, students should use the restroom and visit the water fountain between classes. However, this is only sometimes possible for a variety of reasons. You are permitted to use the facilities during class time if you need to. Please attempt to use an appropriate time during class for the restroom (at the completion of your Bellwork, during individual work, at a checkpoint in group or lab work, etc.). Please avoid missing direct instruction and review (including video clips) and/or lab and group work when at all possible.

## **MagicSchool AI Tools for Students**

This year, students will have access to MagicSchool AI, a generative AI platform built for schools that will help them learn to use the technology safely and responsibly. With tools like ChatGPT and others being used in the professional world, it's important that students learn how to use the technology safely. By using MagicSchool in our classes, your student will be prepared for the future of technology in the workforce. While students use MagicSchool tools for purposes such as receiving real-time feedback, getting their questions answered, generating images, and in other exciting ways, I will have access to their chats to ensure that it's used appropriately. Rest assured, MagicSchool does not collect or train on student data. Be sure to ask your child about how they're using AI in the classroom and take a look at the engaging ways they've utilized the MagicSchool tools to enhance their learning!

For more information, go to [www.magicschool.ai](http://www.magicschool.ai) or reach out directly with questions.

## **Curriculum Overview:**

Unit 1 - The Living World: Ecosystems

Unit 2 - The Living World: Biodiversity

Unit 3 - Populations

Unit 4 - Earth Systems and Resources

Unit 5 - Land and Water Use

Unit 6 - Energy Resources and Consumption

Unit 7 - Atmospheric Pollution

Unit 8 - Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution

Unit 9 - Global Change

**COURSE CALENDAR:** My website has a detailed course calendar that should be referenced often. This calendar is updated at the beginning of each new unit and throughout the semester.