

Welcome to AP Environmental Science! I'm so excited to meet all of you and begin exploring the scientific complexity and beauty of the world we live in. The concepts included in this course are of great personal importance to me, and I can't wait to share them with you. **There is no mandatory summer assignment for AP Environmental Science this year.** However, if you would like to get a head start on some of the topics we will be covering, I have compiled a list of reading opportunities, supplemental information, and activities to engage in Environmental Science over the summer.

- Take a look at the following suggested environmental science-related books and read one of them. These books vary in format and writing style, but they all will help to deepen your understanding of one or more concepts in this course to help you draw connections as we move through the school year.
  1. [Countdown](#) (Alan Weisman): This book deals with the interactions between humans and the environment to try to develop solutions for cohesive existence of both people and the world they inhabit.
  2. [Sixth Extinction](#) (Elizabeth Kolbert): We are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction event on our planet. While previous extinction events stemmed from a variety of geological events, our current extinction is a direct result of human actions. This book won the Pulitzer Prize and is simultaneously informative and entertaining.
  3. [Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming](#) (Paul Hawken): This book contains a 100-item list that explains our best current solutions to combating climate change on Earth.
- Video Resources - If you are more of a visual learner, you can utilize some of the following videos that will help you get a jump start on some of the trickier subjects & skills that we will cover at the beginning of the year.
  1. Nutrient Cycles ([Carbon](#), [Nitrogen](#), [Phosphorus](#))
  2. [APES-specific writing skills](#)
  3. [Study Skills](#) - I recommend looking through this playlist and doing some self-reflection on your study skills. Maybe you could work on your note-taking, procrastination avoidance, or learning how to study more productively. We all have areas that could use some work, and summer is a great time to assess those.
- Set up an AP Environmental Science binder with 10 dividers
- Whether you're traveling over the summer or staying around Charleston, visit a science center, museum, zoo, aquarium, or other natural history venue.
- Spend some time in your favorite habitat! Go outside and appreciate the ecosystems that surround us. Go hiking, biking, kayaking, boating, swimming, or any other activity that lets you disconnect from digital media and reconnect with the outdoors.
- Sign up to be a Citizen Scientist and make a difference by contributing to environmental studies in our local area through the [SC Aquarium](#) or [SC Sea Grant](#).
- Take part in a STEM enrichment [program](#) either in person or virtually.
- Use the Internet as a guide to pursue answers to a question about the scientific universe that you wish to learn more about. Dive into learning more about your question either by watching YouTube or TikTok videos or even by enrolling in an online course on a platform like [EdX](#).

If you make it to the bottom of this list and send me an [email](#) with a photo of you doing one of these items on the list and a random fact about yourself, then you will receive extra credit.

I'm looking forward to our year together in AP Environmental Science!