

Class Time: 7:45 - 9:50 AM

Location Address: STA at Paradise Park Campus (Environmental Sciences Building), 1021 NE Colbern Rd. Lee's Summit, MO 64086

[STA Student Handbook](#), [Official FFA Manual](#)

Contact Information:

STA Main Line: 816.986.3410 / STA Attendance Line: 816.986.3413

Instructor: Kaitlin Edwards

Email: kaitlin.edwards@lsr7.net

Office Phone: 816-986-2599, Ext. 70310

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description:

<p>Missouri Wildlife Studies (Fall): Are you naturally curious and inspired by nature? Missouri Wildlife Studies lets you learn about the world you live in. This class allows you to develop scientific knowledge and theory about the fauna you encounter in the region. Projects you choose will unveil the world through studying our beautiful Missouri environment. You will be able to build upon your successes in previous science courses and apply those concepts to a living environment working with wild species, including snakes, birds, fish and many other animals native to the region through direct investigations in nature. Learning about nature through chemistry, biology and statistics will allow you to view your world in new and exciting ways. During this class you can gain valuable college and career experience. Through habitat development and animal care, students will be able to personally improve the lives of animals.</p>	<p>Missouri Natural Resources (Spring): Are you ready to begin down a path to prepare for a future in environmental science? Scientific studies in the field allow students to not only understand their world, but see how they can make a difference. At Paradise Park, students investigate nature through ecological, cultural, and economic lenses with a hands-on approach in natural habitats. Environmental science students make sense of the science within Missouri ecosystems as they experience Missouri wildlife phenomenon, share questions about the phenomenon and try to answer a class-identified question about a phenomenon. Students use critical thinking skills to develop and monitor live plant life and native animals. Students in this class have a chance to participate using practical and technical skills to make their own meaning of science concepts. This scientific inquiry course allows students to incorporate place-based learning, project-based learning, and problem based learning, with an emphasis on participation in community conservation leadership.</p>
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Instructional Philosophy: Agricultural education envisions a world where all people value and understand the vital role of agriculture and natural resources in advancing personal and global well-being. Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems. STA's Environmental Studies Program utilizes the three integral components of school based agricultural education. These components are classroom and laboratory instruction that is contextual, inquiry based, and interactive; leadership education through FFA which helps members develop premier leadership, personal growth; and career success and supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs that allow students to apply knowledge and skills through experiential, service, and work based learning opportunities.

Course Prerequisites:

- Grade: 11 or 12
- 2.5 GPA (Cumulative) or better
- 90% Attendance or better
- Math: Algebra 1, B- or higher, Algebra 11, B- or higher (recommended)
- Science: Biology 1 & Chemistry 1, B- or higher

Materials Needed:

- Computer & Earbuds
- Pens & Pencils
- 1 Box of Tissues
- 1 Folder
- Water Bottle
- Clothes You Don't Mind Getting Dirty (Long pants recommended) & Comfortable Closed Toe Shoes (Tennis shoes recommended)
- Rain Jacket & Boots
- Sunscreen & Bugspray
- FFA Dues \$13 *Please inform the STA instructor by email if you need assistance.
- Note: Two spiral notebooks are provided.

Year-at-a-Glance:

Unit 1- Natural Resources & Ecology: Practices & Procedures & The MO Ecosystem

Unit 2- Missouri Wildlife: Missouri Plant Life & Missouri Animal Life

Unit 3- Missouri Land: Soil Management & Land Surveying

Unit 4- Aquatic Systems: Water Systems & Water Quality

Unit 5- Biotechnology

Unit 6- Land Management: Agriculture & Forests

Unit 7- Human Systems: Recreation, Ecotourism, & Sustainability

Unit 8- Environmental Solutions: Environmental Policies

Assessment Plan: Formative assessments will be used to identify whether students are attaining the essential learning targets on a daily basis. Conferencing, exit slips etc. will be used to identify comprehension of the learning targets. Summative assessments will be given, including a comprehensive final project at the end of each semester that shows achievement of the essential standards and concepts needed to progress.

Grading Policy: The high school uses a four point system of grading (A= 4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) with a minus and plus option. The following standardized grading scale is used:

A = 95 -100	C = 73-76
A- = 90 - 94	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87 - 89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83 - 86	D = 63-66
B- = 80 - 82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77 - 79	F = 59 & below (No Credit)

Grades are earned by scores in the following categories:

- Field journals, reflections, classwork = (20%)
- Lab/practical work, lab notebook entries, lab reports = (35%)
- SAE (15%)
- Projects, exams, quizzes = (20%)
- Final = (10%)

Academic Lettering: Students who have earned a 94.50% or higher in a STA program for the first semester and a 94.50% or higher grade at the time of the fifth grading period will receive the academic letter, also known as a Chenille letter. Additionally, to receive an academic letter, students must possess positive citizenship, meaning no suspension from STA.

Extra Help Plan: STA utilizes a pyramid of interventions in order to ensure students successfully meet the course requirements. Extra help can be obtained by contacting the STA teacher through email or in person. The teacher and student will agree on the arrangements.

Electronic Gradebook/Parent Connect Website: Grades are updated on a bi-weekly basis on [PowerSchool](#).

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance reflects dependability. The experience gained by students in the classroom cannot be duplicated in the event of absence. Absences must be reported by parents or guardians to STA by calling Andrea Bisogno, attendance secretary, at 986-3413. Students are expected to adhere to the official STA calendar. There will be days when students are expected to be at STA even though their sending school is not in session. Similarly, there will be days when a student is not expected to attend STA, but will be expected to attend their sending school. STA's spring break may be different from your sending high school, however, you are required to attend STA even if your sending school is on spring break. STA will honor the official final end-of-the-year schedule of each sending school. To participate in home school activities a student must complete the Pre-Arranged Absence Form and obtain the signature of their home school administrator and return the completed form to the STA office at least one day prior to the date of the activity. Students should attempt to minimize these absences since one day's absence at STA means loss of a three hour block of instruction.

Tardies: The morning session at Paradise Park Campus begins at 7:45 a.m. Students who are less than fifteen minutes late to school will be counted tardy, and the tardy will count against their 4 tardies in a semester. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late are NOT considered tardy, but are considered as Late to School and will be considered as a class absence with appropriate disciplinary action. Those students riding in automobiles are expected to be in class on time. Any absence or tardy due to private transportation will be unexcused. Driving privileges will be revoked for students who exceed 4 tardies.

Absences: A student shall be allowed no more than nine (9) absences, excused or unexcused, per semester in any one class. When a student reaches 5, 9, and 10 days, the school will send an informational letter to the parents, regardless of prior contact by phone or conference. The letter serves as notification of the number and type of absences by the student in each class. On the tenth (10) absence, in any one class, the student will not earn credit for that class. Students will have the opportunity to work with their administrator or teacher to make up missed time prior to the end of the semester. If a student still has 10 or more absences at the conclusion of the semester the student will be required to complete an Attendance Appeal/Waiver form.

Commitment Process: 1. Prevention, 2. Disruption Repeated - Natural Consequences, 3. Office Referral

Electronics Policy: No electronics or headphones are allowed in the classroom unless used in the educational process as directed by the instructor. Electronics should be placed in backpacks or purses & out of sight at all times. Need technology access outside of class to complete work.

Weather: This class will be outside in a variety of weather conditions. Students will be expected to come prepared & dressed for the weather.

Lab Work: Students are required to sign & adhere to the Lab Safety Contract before working in the lab (indoor & outdoor) & with animals.

Late Work: No late work will be accepted.

Make Up Work: It is the student's responsibility to check Schoology when absent and ask for clarification on missed assignments. One class day for make-up will be allowed for each class day absent.

National FFA Organization: FFA is a dynamic, intracurricular youth development organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Students are required to participate in the National FFA Organization. Students will help develop a program of activities (POA) and attend monthly chapter meetings. If interested, students will also have the opportunity to be elected as chapter officers by their peers as well as participate in FFA events and competitions throughout the membership year (Aug. 1 - July 31). FFA events and competitions may require students to wear FFA official dress (FFA jacket, white collared shirt, black slacks or black skirt, FFA tie or scarf, black nylons or socks, & black dress shoes (closed heel & toe)).

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program: Students will conduct a Research SAE over the course of the school year. They will determine their research question and work through the scientific method to acquire new knowledge and insights or supporting existing research. Students will keep a record book and participate in at least four SAE supervisory visits/conferences with the instructor.

FFA Class Trips:

Some FFA activities will be required as they are integrated into our curriculum. These activities will occur outside of the regular class time. Students are expected to attend & will be excused from their sending school.

Required:

- Chapter Leadership Conference (Officers Only, Butler - Sept 16 9 AM, Rituals 8:30 AM)
- District Grassland Evaluation Contest (TBD)
- Area Fall Speaking Contest (Osceola - Nov 5 4 PM)
- At Least 2 Regional CDEs/MOASKs (Area 7 CDE Archie - March 10 & 1 other TBD)
- State Agriscience Fair (Columbia - April 12)

Highly Encouraged:

- Public Speaking Institute (Columbia - Jan 18)
- Area 7 LDEs & Awards Ceremony/Banquet (Pleasant Hill - March 20)
- District CDEs (UCM Warrensburg - April 1)

Dual Enrollment with University of Central Missouri (UCM):

Cost is \$99 per credit hour. Refer to ucmo.edu/dualcredit for more information & how to register. These agricultural science courses are extra work in addition to your STA coursework & taught online by a UCM professor. If registered, students are expected to complete this work outside of class with the STA instructor available for assistance as needed.