

George Washington High School

Course Syllabus



Course Name: Environmental Science

Instructor Name: Mr. Kevin H. Gomez

Contact Information: kgomez@mail.dps.k12.va.us

- School Phone: **434-799-6410**
- School Fax: **434-799-5251**
- Room number: **C-210**
- Email address: kgomez@mail.dps.k12.va.us
- Website: <https://gwhs.danvillepublicschools.org/t/~board/kevin-gomez>
- Planning Period/Office Hours: **5th Period (1:05-1:55 pm)**

Course Description and VDOE Standards:

Environmental Science is the interdisciplinary study of the natural environment and the interactions between humans and Earth's systems. Integrating concepts from biology, chemistry, geology, and ecology, it explores how air, water, land, and living organisms are connected. From ecosystems and biodiversity to climate change and sustainability, Environmental Science helps students understand environmental challenges and develop solutions for a more sustainable future.

VDOE Standards:

ENV.1 The student will demonstrate an understanding of scientific and engineering practices

ENV.2 The student will investigate and understand that matter and energy move within and among Earth's systems.

ENV.3 The student will investigate and understand that processes and systems lead to changes on Earth's surface.

ENV.4 The student will investigate and understand that ecosystems are in a state of dynamic equilibrium that is affected by complex biotic and abiotic interactions.

ENV.5 The student will investigate and understand that changes in population affect biodiversity and ecosystem success.

ENV.6 The student will investigate and understand that Earth's resources are finite and should be conserved.

ENV.7 The student will investigate and understand that pollutants have physical, chemical, and biological consequences at the local, regional, and global level.

ENV.8 The student will investigate and understand that natural events and human activities affect global climate change.

ENV.9 The student will investigate and understand that individual and collective actions influence environmental sustainability and policy at local, national, and global levels.

Major Assignments:

1. Interims
2. Unit Post Assessments
3. Projects
4. Labs

Student Evaluation:

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|--|------|
| • (Gold) Tests, Projects, Labs, Final Essays | 40 % |
| • (Silver) Quizzes, Lab Reports | 35 % |
| • (Bronze) Classwork and Homework | 25 % |

A = 90-100% | B = 89-80% | C = 79-70% | D = 69-60% | F = 59-0%

- **Final Exams** will count for 10% of the overall grade for each high school course.
 - Courses with Standards of Learning end-of -course assessments will count this test as the final exam and must calculate the score as 10% of the final grade

Student Goal:

During the 2026–2027 school year, all students will actively engage with High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and instruction provided by the teacher to earn a final course grade of 80% or higher, maintain 90% or greater attendance in the course, and pass the applicable End-of-Course SOL assessment or gain industry credential.

Promotion Requirements:

In alignment with the Virginia High School League, individual student promotion shall be based upon satisfactory performance as follows:

Grade Level	Required Credits
9 th	0-5
10 th	6
11 th	12
12 th	18

Promotion is based upon earned units of credits. Before a student can graduate, he or she must earn the required credits as indicated below:

1. To be classified as a 10th grader, a student must have earned a minimum of six (6) standard units of credit to include three credits, which must be from the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, history, or physical education.
2. To be classified as an 11th grader, a student must have earned a minimum of twelve (12) standards of credit to include six credits which must be from the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, history, or physical education.
3. To be classified as a 12th grader, a student must have earned a minimum of eighteen (18) standard units of credit, including ten credits, which must be from the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, history, or physical education.
4. Five (5) verified credits (i.e., English (2), mathematics (1), science (1), and history (1) are graduation requirements for the Advanced Diploma and Standard Diploma). Minimally, students are expected to earn verified credits as follows:
 - i. 9th grade earns at least one verified credit
 - ii. 10th grade earns at least two verified credits
 - iii. 11th grade earns at least two verified credits in English

Please be aware that you can keep track of your student's grades, assignments, and attendance by using your Parent Portal account. Homework is posted each week on our school webpage under the teacher's name. Please contact your student's school counselor or grade level administrator if you need help navigating our school website, a Parent Portal activation code, or assistance accessing the Parent Portal.

Course Requirements:

- All homework should be completed as assigned.
- All students should be ready to participate in all class activities.
- All students will be expected to use appropriate classroom etiquette.
- All students are expected to respectful, responsible, and ready to learn on a daily basis

Makeup Work Procedure:

- For excused absences, it is the responsibility of the student to secure and complete the missed assignments in consultation with the teacher. Students have 7 days, including weekends, from the due date to complete any missing work.

Late Work Procedure:

- Late work will be accepted up to 3 calendar days after the due date. If that date falls on the weekend/breaks/student absence, students **should** communicate with the teacher on submission requirements.
- No assignment will be accepted beyond three days of the original due date and the student may receive a grade of Zero. After the three days the student may utilize the Grade Recovery Procedure to recover missing assignments.
- Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 25% off of the earned grade.
 - **Late work formula calculation** → $\text{Student Score} \times 0.75 = \text{Final Assignment Score}$
 - ie. if a student submits an assignment late and earns a 90, the late penalty would be 22.5 points deducted for a total of 67.5% grade

Parent and Student Resources

- All parents are encouraged to check the Parent Portal to monitor student academic progress and attendance. PowerSchool Mobile can be downloaded from Google Play and the App Store.
- Be sure to follow the George Washington High School on Facebook and on the DPS App.

