



Course Name: AP 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:

AP Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary course that explores the relationships between humans and the natural world. Students will investigate ecological principles, energy flow, biodiversity, earth systems, and the impacts of human activity on the environment. This course challenges students to think critically about environmental issues and develop informed solutions for a sustainable future—preparing them for both the AP exam and responsible global citizenship.

The following themes provide a foundation for the structure of the AP Environmental Science course.

1. Science is a process.
 - Science is a method of learning more about the world.
 - Science constantly changes the way we understand the world.
2. Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes.
 - Energy cannot be created; it must come from somewhere.
 - As energy flows through systems, at each step more of it becomes unusable.
3. The Earth itself is one interconnected system.
 - Natural systems change over time and space.
 - Biogeochemical systems vary in ability to recover from disturbances.
4. Humans alter natural systems.
 - Humans have had an impact on the environment for millions of years.
 - Technology and population growth have enabled humans to increase both the rate and scale of their impact on the environment.
5. Environmental problems have a cultural and social context.
 - Understanding the role of cultural, social and economic factors is vital to the development of solutions.
6. Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.
 - A suitable combination of conservation and development is required.
 - Management of common resources is essential.

Major Assignments:

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

Student Evaluation:

- | | |
|--|------|
| • (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** → **Student Score x 0.75 = 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.

