

AP Environmental Science (APES) Summer Work

Welcome to APES! I am very happy that you have decided to take this course and embark upon what I hope you find an exciting and rewarding educational journey. This letter contains an outline and brief description of the summer work for APES that is required to be completed BEFORE the next school year begins. By performing these tasks, you will take a huge step towards preparing for the upcoming year. I want you to understand that I, like you, enjoy summer break! This is not intended to be “busy work.” By completing these tasks, you will perform research and source information that we will be using throughout the year. Because the AP exam will be held the beginning of May, class time is very precious. We will use most of April to review for the exam which leaves us about six months, including breaks and holidays to prepare for the AP exam.

Summer Tasks With Estimated Timeframes

Complete the AP Environmental Science Math Prep Activity (about 5 hours total)

While there is not a lot of math in APES, it is important that you are comfortable solving some problems. You must be comfortable working out problems using pencil and paper. Most of our math will involve dimensional analysis - solving problems involving unit conversions. You should be comfortable working with percentages, operations with decimal numbers and using scientific notation. Most of the math in APES uses very large numbers, so you should be able to work problems using scientific notation. While not included in this assignment, you also need the ability to read, interpret and create graphs from data. The packet starts out with very simple arithmetic, moves on to scientific notation and percentages, and culminates in dimensional analysis. You need to show all your work and answer the questions in the boxes provided in the packet. This packet will be due in my hands by Friday, September 6, 2019.

Environmental Laws and Treaties (about 8 hours total)

Research and summarize the relevant **environmental laws and treaties** that are listed on the assignment sheet. Many times throughout the year, you will need to reference these environmental acts. Having a working familiarity with them will make the course go so much smoother. We will also be having a quiz on these acts, laws and treaties. If you complete the work during the summer, the quiz should be a breeze! This research is due Friday, September 13, 2019.

Be Aware of and Enjoy Nature (as long as you would like!)

Environmental Science, while an academic discipline, is also an experience. My hope is that through this class, you will become more aware of your environment, the challenges we face as a society to preserve the environment, and maybe some potential solutions for environmental problems. Throughout the course we will take several field trips to experience nature and study an environmental problem. To kick start this process, I would like you to visit a natural area, go for a walk, sit in your backyard, go to a park or the beach or anywhere outside and make some observations. There are questions on the assignment sheet to guide you. This information is due Friday, September 6, 2019.

I will be available over the summer if you have questions. You can email me at stoufang@wcps.k12.md.us (I will check my email at least once a week). You can also join my remind group for APES (text the code: @hchcee to 81010 to join). You can text me via remind and I will get back to you.

I want you to enjoy your summer, so I don't expect you to spend a huge amount of time on any of these assignments. Total, it should take you less than 20 hours (which is about an hour a week). By putting this time in, you will end up with good, quality work and you will be very well prepared to start the year on a positive note.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to a great year with you!
Mrs. Stouffer