

APES Survival Guide

Welcome to AP Environmental Science (APES). This should prove to be a challenging and rewarding course for everyone. It is your responsibility to read, know, and abide by the following policies. Any questions or concerns must be addressed at the beginning of the school year.

Classroom Rules

1. Always follow directions
2. Never talk while the teacher is talking
3. Never leave your seat without permission
4. Respect your fellow students and the teacher

Consequences of Breaking our Classroom Rules

1. Warning
2. Placement in an ICS class for the day and permanent seat change to a location of my choosing ☺
3. 30-minute detention (lunch) and an immediate phone call to your parents

Tardies

- You are required to be in your seat, with all necessary materials for that day readily available, ready to work, on time.
- The school-wide tardy policy is in effect.

Absences

You are expected to attend class everyday. If you are absent the following policies apply.

- Absent on the day an assignment is due, present when it was assigned—it is due your first day back.
- Absent on the day an assignment is due, not present when it was assigned—it is due your second day back.
- Absent for part of a lab—obtain data from lab partners, it is due on time.
- Absent for an entire lab or activity—obtain an alternate assignment (2-3 page paper on the lab topic).
- Absent for a test—a cumulative make-up test will be offered during the last week of the grading period.
- Late assignments (not due to absence) may receive partial credit, depending on the circumstances.
- Class cuts/suspension—no credit for assignments, labs, or tests due, performed or taken that day.
- There will be no make-up quizzes or in-class essays.

It is your responsibility to be aware when you need to make up an assignment, lab, or test and to do it on time.

Grades

Each assignment you complete and submit, on-time, will be graded with points assigned based on a universally applied, objective grading scheme for that assignment. Approximate point values for assignments follow.

Tests.....	100 points
Homework.....	10-50 points
Labs & Activities.....	50-200 points
In-Class Essays.....	20 points
Quizzes.....	10 points
Book checks.....	5 points
Class work.....	10-20 points
Projects (i.e. Apprentice, Debates, etc....).....	100-200 points

In each semester there will be 5-8 units of study, which will total approximately 1,500 to 2,000 points. Grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned and assigned according to the scale below.

A percentage will be determined for each student, and grades will be assigned based on the guidelines listed below.

Final grades will be calculated to two significant digits.

>97%—A+	87-89%—B+	77-79%—C+	67-69%—D+
94-96%—A	84-86%—B	74-76%—C	64-66%—D
90-93%—A-	80-83%—B-	70-73%—C-	60-63%—D-
			<60%—F

Note: pluses and minuses will not be assigned on progress reports.

Vocabulary Lists

A Vocabulary List for each unit is due on the day of the unit test.

- ❑ The Vocabulary List must be handwritten, in your handwriting, and must be legible.
- ❑ The Vocabulary List must not be sloppily prepared and must be correctly formatted (see below).
- ❑ Vocabulary List Format:
 - Write with pencil or pen.
 - Write your name, period, date and “APES” in the top right-hand corner of the paper.
 - Title the paper "Vocabulary Unit ___", and number the vocabulary words sequentially.
 - Provide complete definitions in your own words for each of the words listed in the unit's study guide.

Labs

The laboratory is a special situation that you will encounter in this class. Labs can be fun and rewarding learning experiences, and they can also be extremely dangerous. The rules in the laboratory must be strict.

Always follow safety rules—Safety first, Safety Last, Safety Always!!

When in doubt—Ask.

The consequence of breaking a laboratory rule is exclusion from the lab and no credit for the lab.

Guidelines for Preparing and Maintaining the Lab Notebook

- ✍ Use a graph paper filled Composition Book.
- ✍ Write only in ink.
- ✍ Do not tear pages out of the lab notebook.
- ✍ Number the top outside corner of both sides of each page of the lab notebook.
- ✍ Begin the first lab write up on page 5.
- ✍ The lab notebook must contain a record of all materials and procedures used in performing the lab (a scientifically literate stranger should be able to execute any of the labs within your lab notebook—without any additional information).
- ✍ Record all data directly into the lab notebook. (This requires the pre-lab to be completed before the lab activity.)
- ✍ Initial and date all data the day it is collected.
- ✍ Strike out incorrect information and mistakes with a single horizontal line. No white-out, obliterated data/words.
- ✍ Use the first two pages of the lab notebook for the Table of Contents.
- ✍ Begin a Table of Contents on page 1.
- ✍ After each lab is completed, add its name and page number to the Table of Contents.
- ✍ Be prepared to turn in your lab notebook at any time during a laboratory.

Guidelines for Planning and Completing a Scientific Graph (Mandatory - I am not kidding 😊)

- ☒ Draw the graph directly into the lab notebook. Do not paste it in.
- ☒ Use the full extent of the graph paper in each direction for the graph.
- ☒ Include a figure number and descriptive title at the top of the graph.
- ☒ Unless otherwise instructed, plot the independent variable (the variable set before the experiment begins) along the x-axis, and plot the dependent variable (the variable measured as the experiment progresses) along the y-axis.
- ☒ Label both axes with the variable name (measured or predetermined quantity) and the units of measurement.
- ☒ Plan the graph so that the data fills most of the available space on the graph paper. Do not squish the data into one area of the graph.
- ☒ Evenly space the tick marks on both axes and clearly label them.
- ☒ Do not plot data points on the axes.
- ☒ Data points must be clearly visible, identifiable, and unambiguous.
- ☒ If multiple sets of data are plotted on one graph, use a different symbol and line style or color for each data set, and include a legend that clearly identifies each set of data.
- ☒ Data should be appropriately correlated, by drawing a best-fit line or smooth curve between the points. Connecting the data points is rarely appropriate (i.e. nearly always wrong) on a scientific graph.