**Honors Biology/AP Environmental Science**

“People would rather believe than know.”

-Edward O. Wilson

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

Mrs. Andrea Michlovitch-Clark Classroom phone: (619) 660-3626

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**Expectations**

**Be Prepared**: Ready to learn and work (mentally and physically).

**Be Engaged**: On task and productive in class.

**Be Accountable**: For your actions and performance.

**Be Appropriate**: (See S.C.H.S. School Values.)

Behave according to your setting, the classroom/lab.

**Rules**

• All school rules are enforced (dress-code, attendance). Cell phones only during designated times.

• No eating, drinking (water is ok).

• ***Please*** use common sense, **Be Appropriate**, practice safety, and respect

people and property.

• No talking during quizzes or tests, cell phones will be collected.

**Required Materials**

* 2 (3) Subject Notebooks (1 for each term)
* 1 composition book (Lab Notebook)
* Writing utensils
* Barrons Review Book for AP Environmental Science

**Cell Phones, Computers, IPods, IPads**

* 1st offense: Verbal warning to turn off and put out of sight.
* 2nd offense: Device is confiscated and given back at the end of the block.
* 3rd offense: Device is confiscated and sent to administration.

**Academic Dishonesty**

You will work closely with your classmates and share both ideas and resources. However, each student is responsible for submitting his/her own unique work. Acts of academic dishonesty, which will not be tolerated within Steele Canyon Charter:

• Cheating on tests

• Unauthorized collaboration

• Fabrication (any intentional falsification or invention of date, citation, or other authority in an academic exercise)

• Plagiarism (stealing and passing off as one’s own the words.

• Electronic plagiarism (copying words or ideas from the internet and passing them off as one’s own)

**First Offense -** Loss of credit for assignment with no make-up permitted. Referral to Vice Principal & parent notification, automatic “U” on progress report.

**Second Offense -** Removal from class with a “Withdraw/Failure”. Referral to Vice Principal & parent notification.

**Course Description:**

Welcome to Honors Biology and Advanced Placement Environmental Science. At Steele Canyon this class is unique! Honors Biology will be the first portion of the course and APES will be the second.

We will complete 4 Units of Honors Biology then we will begin the APES curriculum. The variation between the two will be significant. APES will begin before the end of the term therefore the expectation is to complete both portions of the course and take the APES exam in May.

APEs should NOT be considered “college prep”. This is a COLLEGE course, with college level expectations for behavior, attendance, participation and effort.

The AP Environmental Science course is a full-year course designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. The AP Environmental Science course is a rigorous science course that stresses scientific principles and analysis and includes a laboratory component.

The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine the alternative solutions for resolving and and/or preventing them.

**Classroom Environment**

* **Formal labs:** usually take 1-2 days and will require a formal lab write up.
* **Activities:** hands on activities that reinforce curriculum with no formal lab write up.
* **Lecture:** are in Powerpoint form. All Powerpoints are available online through the class website. Notes should be taken before the lecture to speed up the process.
* **Discussions:** all students will be expected to participate during classroom discussion.
* **Homework/Reading:** Homework will be plentiful! Be prepared to do at least 1-2 hours of homework per night. Weekends and breaks will include homework and/or projects.
* **Essays:** Essays make up to 40% of the APES example. A considerable amount of time will be dedicated to essay writing and grading.
* **Current Events:** you will make a collection of current events relating to environmental issues.
* **Projects:** will vary per unit.

**Assessment**

* **Tests:** each unit will have a major exam with both a free response and a multiple choice section.
* **Quizzes:** quizzes will vary from multiple choice to short answer to essay questions depending on the unit.
* **Essays:** Essay questions will be given as quizzes once per week.

**Grading**

* Failing exam grades can be raised by completing test corrections. Students can earn ¼ of the amount of points that they lost. All make-ups will be conducted after school and/or by appointment and must be completed before the next like assignment (exam/quiz or lab) is performed.
* Students are responsible for making up work after an excused absence. Students must determine what assignment was missed, complete the assignment and turn it in within one week of the excused absence.
* Late homework will receive half-credit. Lab reports will be penalized 10% each day the assignment is late with a maximum penalty of 50%.

**Grade Categories and Weight**

Assignment Type Overall Grade Scale

Labs....................30% A = 89.5 -100%

Tests...................35% B = 79.5 – 89.4%

Homework ......20% C = 69.5 – 79.4%

Project...............10% D = 59.5 – 69.4%

Warm-Ups..........5% F = 0 – 59.4%

Total 100%

**Biology**

Biology is the study of life. In this portion of the course we will investigate topics such as DNA, cells, hereditary, and DNA technology. The course units are as follows:

**Unit 1:** What is life and on what chemical does all life depend?

**Unit 2:** How does life grow and develop?

**Unit 3:** Why is each living thing unique?

**Unit 4:** How can genetic information be used in today’s society?

**APES**

Upon completion of Honors Biology 1C and 2C we will begin the APES curriculum. The curriculum is specifically designed to help you pass the AP exam in May. The curriculum is organized into 10 separate units. Each unit will have a theme with several subtopics.

Major Themes for APES will adhere to the following as suggested by the College Board:

1. **Science is a process.**

* Science is a method of learning more about the world.
* Science constantly changes the way we understand the world.

1. **Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes.**

* Energy cannot be created; it must come from somewhere.
* As the energy flows thought systems, each step more of it becomes unusable.

1. **The Earth itself is one interconnected system.**

* Natural systems change over time and space.
* Biogeochemical systems vary in ability to recovery 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.

1. **Environmental Problems have a cultural and social context.**

* Understanding the role of cultural, social and economic factors is vital to the development of solutions.

1. **Human survival depends on the developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.**

* A suitable combination of conservation and development is required.
* Management of common resources is essential.

Mrs. Andrea Michlovitch-Clark

2014-2015 School Year

***Student Accountability Contract***

*I have read the syllabus for AP Environmental Science. I will do my best and work hard to fulfill the requirements of the course and the expectations of my teacher.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Parent Contract of Support***

**Parent/Guardian Name(s):**

**Parent #(1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Parent Signature: (1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time/way to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Okay to call you at work number?)* Yes No

**Parent/Guardian Name(s):**

**Parent #(2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Parent Signature: (2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time/way to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Okay to call you at work number?)* Yes No

**Please visit the class website for current information and to sign up to receive text reminders for APES.**