Environmental Science

Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary field of study, which combines ideas and information from the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, geology) and the social sciences (economics, ethics, politics). The course allows for students to build on scientific concepts, which were learned in previous science classes. It provides a real and direct connection for students between the study of science and the world around them.

The course highlights the importance and the fragility of the natural world. The interdisciplinary nature of the course helps students understand the motives driving environmentally damaging human behavior. With this understanding, students are capable of integrating additional information during a lifetime of learning and are better prepared for the future regardless of their post high school aspirations.

Enduring Understandings

- There are local, national and global environmental problems.
- There are a limited amount of nonrenewable resources on this Earth.
- Pollution has negative effects on the environment.
- It is important to sustain biodiversity and ecological stability.
- There is a dynamic relationship between society and the environment.
- All living things share interconnected.
- Humans can adapt to more environmentally friendly lifestyles.
Essential Questions

- How are the local, national and global environmental problems dealt with by society?
- How can humans prevent environmental problems?
- How are renewable and nonrenewable resources used by humans?
- Why is it important to sustain biodiversity?
- How does society view the environment?
- How can humans improve the environment?
- How is environmental stability maintained?

Units of Study

The Physical Earth
Methods of Science
Changes in the Biosphere
Matter and Energy Flow
Ecosystem Interactions
Ecosystem Balance
Land/aquatic Biomes
Humans and Their Needs
Human Population Growth
Feeding the World
Organic Fuels
Alternative Fuels
Minerals and Soils
Pollution
Habitat Destruction
Conservation
Environmental Policies
Current Issues