

Sustainable Systems

Syllabus: 2016-2017

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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the idea of sustainability. During the first semester, our focus is on Watershed health. During the second semester, students will focus on their own lives along with looking at how “green” RPHS is. Throughout the year, we will also be working at Rinearson Creek; an area we adopted with SOLVE. We will constantly be looking at how our actions and behaviors impact our “Ecological Footprint” and then evaluate how we can reduce our footprint.

Required Materials

- Composition Notebook: 100 pages, college ruled (**NO SPIRALS ALLOWED**)
- Pencil or pen
- Glue stick

Classroom Expectations and Guidelines

1. **Shared Respect.** Respect yourself and others in the class. We will be working and learning together all year, requiring a high level of mutual respect for all individuals in our community. There will be a 0% tolerance for hateful words or actions.
2. **Attitude.** Our class will be a positive learning environment. I expect all students to give their personal 100% every day. I will work to help all students hold a growth mindset throughout the year to achieve personal goals. Leave the drama at the door!
3. **Attendance.** I expect you to be in class each day. All of the material and work in sustainable systems will be done in class. Failure to attend AND participate in class regularly will result in a poor grade. See grading policy for details.
4. **Organization.** Use the tools provided in class to remain organized and prepared for class each day. This means having the supplies needed for success at the start of each class, using a planner, and maintaining an organized interactive notebook.
5. **Efficiency.** You are expected to work hard from bell to bell. This means being in your seat and working when the bell rings, as well as staying in your seat until you are dismissed at the end of class. Students tardy more than 5 minutes will receive lunch detention.
6. **Focus.** There will be a no tolerance policy for the use of phones and electronics during class time. Students should remain in their seat during teacher instruction; Breaks will be given to attend to sharpening pencils, throwing trash away, water breaks, etc. Use the restroom before class; each student will have the privilege of 3 bathroom passes each semester.

Course Outline

The first semester of sustainable systems will focus on watershed health, diving into projects with our own local watersheds. The second semester's focus is sustainable living which will take us on a journey of analyzing our personal impact on the environment and finding ways to be sustainable. The units for this course will revolve around overarching questions that will be answered through class activity and projects to gain a better understanding of sustainability.

1st Semester: Watersheds

1. What is a watershed?
2. What contributes to a healthy watershed?
3. How are humans connected?
4. How can I raise awareness?

2nd Semester

1. Why is it important to be sustainable?
2. How do I affect the environment?
3. What changes can I make personally?
4. What change can I make in the community?

Grading Policies

1. **Grading Breakdown.** Students' grades will be determined by four categories of work.

Projects	40%
Interactive Notebook	40%
Community Involvement	20%

2. **Projects.** Students will be assessed on their knowledge of the topics through a variety of projects done throughout the year. We will spend most days of class working on the projects. Students will have the opportunity to present projects at schools, summits, and meetings.
3. **Interactive Notebook (INB).** All classwork (warm-ups, notes, activities) will be done in an INB. Students will get credit for completion and effort on INB work, which will be collected and graded once a unit. Completed work will be stamped for points and totaled for a grade.
4. **Community Involvement.** In order to prove their understanding of sustainability, students will be required to bring their knowledge and expertise to the community through service and awareness. Assignments that involve community interaction (service reflections, community presentations, and other projects) will go into this category.
5. **Absent Work Policy.** Students are expected to be responsible for days that they have missed. All handouts and materials from past classes will be organized by page number in a filing container. Students should look at the example INB to catch up outside of class time.
6. **Late Work.** INB work will be stamped on the day that it is due for full credit (5 points each stamp). Any work completed after the due date will be stamped with a different color representing 3 pts per stamp. Any late submissions of projects will be discussed with Ms. B.
7. **Academic Honesty.** Plagiarism will not be tolerated in the classroom. This includes, copying another student's work, using cheat sheets on exams, or copying materials such as books, articles or the Internet word for word. Without exception, students caught cheating will be given a 0% grade on the assignment, and parents will be called.