



Dear AP Environmental Science Student,

Welcome to APES! I am very excited about next year and look forward to having you in my class. We will have fun and learn a lot.

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 alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

This is a fast-paced course. Students will be expected to do reading, videos and note-taking outside of class in order to be prepared for each day's material. In order to master the content required by this course, students must be diligent. Staying current on all assignments is an integral part of preparing for the APES exam. Quizzes will be given regularly. I expect students to come to class daily with all assignments thoroughly completed and ready to participate in class discussion.

I will do my very best to provide a college level course/experience which not only prepares you for the AP Exam, but provides a solid knowledge of environmental science. I also intend for our class to be interesting and inspiring! You are fortunate to be able to take this type of college level course in the high school setting as part of a small group. The thought processes and study habits required for this class will also help prepare you for college level work in any course.

This year's summer assignment is below. **All summer work is due on the first day of class.**

**1. Reading/Writing:** Read the short essay "Tragedy of the Commons" by Garrett Hardin.

[http://www.garretthardinsociety.org/articles\\_pdf/tragedy\\_of\\_the\\_commons.pdf](http://www.garretthardinsociety.org/articles_pdf/tragedy_of_the_commons.pdf)

When you have completed the reading, please respond to the following in handwritten **complete sentences**:

- a. What is Garrett Hardin's central idea in this essay?
- b. Do you personally agree with Hardin's central idea?
- c. Is the "Tragedy of the Commons" unavoidable?
- d. Identify one "commons" in your own life (at school, home, work) and explain how it is (or is not) being managed wisely to avoid the situation described in the essay.

You may also want to research who Garrett Hardin was and what his worldview included. We will discuss this in class. You may take any additional notes on the article and topic of "tragedy of the commons" as well. We will be completing a graded timed writing on this topic in class during the first week of school. You will be allowed to use any notes you have taken for the in class writing assignment.

**2.** Go outside and explore God's creation. Keep a journal of your observations-any format is fine (a notebook with sketches, descriptions, and reflections, google doc or slides with your original images, descriptions, reflections). At least 8 entries are required for full credit. This will be your first lab grade.

My e-mail address is: [ejohnson@hpcacougars.org](mailto:ejohnson@hpcacougars.org). Please feel free to email me if you have any questions about this assignment or any problems.

I hope you enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you in class this fall!

Mrs Johnson

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