Welcome to AP Environmental Science (APES)! I am so excited for next year, and I hope you are too! APES is designed to examine ecological, biological, chemical, physical and geological concepts and interactions... it is perhaps the most relevant course you will take in your high school career! The purpose of this summer assignment is to help you become aware of the environment and many of the ongoing concerns related to it and to inspire you so that you come ready to learn about all of the great topics we’ll cover throughout the year!

These assignments are not meant to take a huge amount of time! They will not kill you and, provided you start early, should prove to be an enjoyable, immensely valuable experience. This leads me to a word on my philosophy for AP Environmental Science... If you’re right for this course, you have the personal integrity to desire rigorous academics for the sake of self-development. There are other courses at WHS that will not challenge you in this way. I truly believe there is REAL VALUE in struggling to improve intellectually. If you are confused, lost, troubled, puzzled, perplexed, mystified, worried, bothered, bewildered or bamboozled in any way, contact me by email over the summer and I will try to help you find your way, but the point of these assignments is to get you thinking about some topics we will discuss this upcoming year.

Lastly, many students choose to complete their summer work in pairs or small groups. Throughout the year, we will become a team and I thoroughly encourage your comradery, however, each student must submit his or her own original work. If any student is caught copying, plagiarizing, or using work that is not their own without proper citation, consequences will ensue: the assignment will receive a score of 0, referral to the Dean, a letter sent home to parents, possible detention and/or Saturday School, and a “U” in citizenship for the duration of the semester. Please do not do this!

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE DIFFERENT DUE DATES FOR THE DIFFERENT PARTS! If for some reason you cannot submit a part of the assignment on the specific due date (ie. you’re out of the country), you will need to complete it early. All assignments submitted after their specified due dates will be penalized with a 50% reduction in overall score. Thank you in advance for the time you put in and know that I’m picking the most important things for you to work on since I want you to have plenty of time to enjoy summer too!

*Just a quick note: In our effort to be environmentally conscious this year, I will be inviting you to hand in many assignments via Google Classroom (unless I specifically advise otherwise). ~ Ms. Rivera*

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**Part One:**

**PREPPING FOR THE COURSE:**

This assignment has two components: The first involves logging into ETUSD and adding yourself to our summer Google Classroom (I will create a new one when the school year officially starts and I know what period you are in). I assume if you are reading this document you were able to successfully log in 😁. Please add yourself to our Summer Google Classroom by **JULY 3, 2020!**
Google Classroom Code: gndmaj4

Whether we are apart of a virtual classroom or physically meeting, obtaining the proper materials can help ensure success: *(these are recommended but NOT required)*

- Notebook (spiral or composition) or binder-
  **please buy sustainable or recycled if possible!**
- At least 1 package of pens and/or pencils for use during class/labs
- 1 package of graph paper
- Highlighters (at least 2 colors)

Also, I check my email pretty regularly, but the easiest and fastest way to get ahold of me is via the Remind app. **I HIGHLY RECOMMEND that you sign up for the Remind app.**

**Part Two:**

**“UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES” (5 points):** This year, we will focus a lot of time talking about how decisions made by humans have impacted our planet. In that endeavor, we quite often find that one action leads to another, which can have unintended consequences. In this assignment, you will explore the impact of the American diet on the Sumatran Elephant. You will watch a video clip using the program Edpuzzle (this will be used a lot this upcoming year). Watch the video and answer the questions as they pop up. **You will need to complete this activity by Friday, July 17, 2020.**

**Part Three:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE IN THE REAL WORLD (5 points):** One of the biggest changes to the Environmental Science test is a focus on experimental design, analyzing environmental problems, and proposing solutions. To prepare you for this shift, read the scientific journal article and complete the accompanying document. **You will need to complete this activity and turn it in by Friday, July 31, 2020.**

**Part Four:**

**APES SUMMER CHALLENGE (15 points):** As you prepare to take APES next year, it is important to have a connection to the environment. This summer, I challenge you to complete **ONE** of the actions below. You should keep electronics to a minimum during these experiences - don’t listen to music but rather the sounds of nature! You can use experiences while on vacation, or close to home. Instead of writing a paper for this assignment, I’d like you to create a FlipGrid video; There’s a lot of freedom here so make your video unique. Be sure to answer the questions listed for each topic, but also think about how you think this may tie into future units of
study this year! **This assignment is due by Friday, August 14, 2020.**

➔ Go camping - Spend at least 1 night sleeping outside in a tent (or if it is nice no tent!). This can be in your own backyard or on a campground. Cabins/cottages do not count for this activity. If possible, build a campfire and try cooking a meal over it!
  - Describe your night outside: Did you like your experience? It might be a good idea to film some of your experience for your Flipgrid!
  - How do you think this relates to our class?
  - Do you feel more connected to the environment?
  - Do you think people would care more about the environment if we all spent more time outside?

➔ Go for a hike - Explore an area of woods or wetlands while focusing on nature. Look high and low, stop to listen to the sounds, and occasionally stand perfectly still to see if you observe anything that you might miss otherwise.
  - Describe your hike in detail (make part of your Flipgrid while you’re hiking!)
  - Do you see any examples of how humans have negatively impacted the environment?
  - How do you think this relates to our class?
  - Do you feel more connected to the environment?
  - Do you think people would care more about the environment if we all spent more time outside?

| Part Four: | **Summer Math Review (15 points):** You will be allowed to use a calculator on the AP Exam! BUT... you still need to be able to do the math required for this course. By reviewing the math skills needed for APES, you will be well on your way to a successful year. **This assignment should be printed out (just the answer document with work shown) and turned in on the first day of school - Wednesday, August 26, 2020.** |