Course Description
Welcome to AP Environmental Science or APES! The goal of this class is to provide you with scientific tools and principles to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify environmental problems and analyze the causes, to identify the consequences of these problems, and to investigate solutions to mitigating or preventing these problems. This course will be dynamic, exciting, and thought-provoking.

Course Topics
- **Earth Systems and Resources** (Earth science concepts, the atmosphere, global water resources and use, soil and soil dynamics)
- **The Living World** (Ecosystem structure, energy flow, ecosystem diversity and change, biogeochemical cycles)
- **Population** (Population biology concepts, human population)
- **Land and Water Use** (Agriculture, forestry, rangelands, mining, fishing, global economics)
- **Energy Resources and Consumption** (Energy consumption, fossil fuels, nuclear energy, hydroelectric power, energy conservation, renewable energy)
- **Pollution** (pollution types, impacts on the environment and human health, economic impacts)
- **Global Change** (Stratospheric ozone, global warming, loss of biodiversity)

Course Practices
These are skills that we will practice throughout the year. You will be assessed on these practices on the AP exam.
- **Concept Explanation**
- **Visual Representations**
- **Text Analysis**
- **Scientific Experiments**
- **Data Analysis**
- **Mathematical Routines**
- **Environmental Solutions**

Digital Viewing Options:
- **Planet Earth**
- **The Lorax**
- **Before the Flood**
- **Inconvenient Truth**
- **Warning from the Ice**
- **Ted Talks/Documentaries**
- **Saving the Planet Climate Change**
- **Cane Toads**
- **Chasing Coral**
- **Strangedays**
Grading

Overall Semester Grade:

80% Coursework
20% Semester final exam

Grading Disbursement:

A= 90-100% B= 80-89% C= 70-79% D=60-69% F= <59%

Weighting of Categories
Homework - 10%
Assessments - 40%
Labs and projects - 50%

Contact Information
Communication is essential. You are strongly encouraged to contact your teacher with any questions, concerns or celebrations. Email is usually the quickest & easiest way to do so. Teachers will do their best to respond within 48 hours. If you would like to set up a time to meet in person, this can also be done through email.

Ms. Katsenes' office is the lower science office or Room 150. Mrs. Richardson's office is the upper science office or Room 206.

Materials
You are responsible for bringing the following materials to class every day:

- 3-ring binder OR folder with pockets
- Loose-leaf notebook paper OR spiral notebook
- Calculator

Required textbook (you can keep this at home)
Friedland and Relyea, Environmental Science for AP, 2nd edition

How to be Successful

READ: Your textbook is an invaluable part of this class. You will need to read your book (and often).
Stay organized: There will be handouts in this class - have a system to keep them organized.
Be engaged: Take notes and participate in labs & group problem solving. Share your thoughts. Be present and put the cell phones out of sight.

Use Canvas: Daily agenda slides will be posted on Canvas. Add them as a bookmark or keep the tab open. They will be useful especially when you are absent.

Collaborate: Find others in the class to study with. When you discuss concepts and teach others, you gain a deeper understanding of the concepts.
Classroom Culture
A safe, comfortable classroom is extremely important. Unkind words or actions will NOT be tolerated. We may have differing opinions on issues, which is ok. We will be respectful of these differences. We all have to work to keep the classroom a positive and friendly atmosphere.

Parents & Guardians
Parents should actively check Infinite Campus for their student’s grade.
  ❖ The grades on Infinite Campus will be accurate only at the end of each semester. Prior to those dates, the grade reflected is fluid.
  ❖ Infinite Campus is a communication tool until the final grade is posted.

Please ask your student about their school work.