

West Springfield High School 2025-26

Environmental Science CT

West Springfield Department Chair: Sharon Phillips (slphillips@fcps.edu)

Course Comparisons:

Environmental Science – 9th grade Peri Tisler (kjtisler@fcps.edu) Kristin Bump (ktbump@fcps.edu)	Environmental Science -- 11th/12th grade Heidi Averette (hsaverette@fcps.edu)
<p>For students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are challenged by 7th and 8th grade science and math courses. (Passed science and math courses with a D or lower) ● Struggle with standardized testing. ● <u>Have not yet taken Biology.</u> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Able to draw conclusions from data and a set of given facts ● Needs support in understanding new vocabulary ● Would benefit from additional practice in note taking, graphing, and interpreting diagrams ● Benefit from repetition and structure <p>Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foundation course for those who would benefit from an additional year to take the Biology SOL. Fulfills Earth Science. ● Students would then enroll in Biology as 10th graders ● Hands-on learning activities 	<p>Prerequisite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passed 9th grade (introductory) Biology and 10th grade (introductory) Chemistry ● Passed Algebra 1 and 2, and Geometry, with a C average or better in all math classes. <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn, work and study independently ● Meet deadlines & turn in assignments on time ● Take notes during lectures using guided notes ● Conduct inquiry-based labs, analyze & submit conclusions ● Be able to follow written instructions/lab procedures ● Analyze, interpret and graph data ● Attend class and participate
<p>Env. Science for 9th graders includes projects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hands-on learning activities, such as demonstrations by Fairfax Water and ecosystem simulations. ● Problem-based learning, such as stream crime investigations and carbon footprint reduction. ● Focus on Global and Ethical Citizens (PoG) (No SOL) 	<p>Env. Science for 11th and 12th graders includes projects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hands on indoor and outdoor lab experiences such as engineering ocean plastic capture devices, outdoor scavenger hunts, carbon capture of trees, and dissections. ● Independent research projects exploring the solutions to environmental issues such as climate change and endangered species.

<p>AP Environmental Science Desiree DiMauro (ddimauro@fcps.edu) Heidi Averette (hsaverette@fcps.edu)</p>	<p>Dual Enrollment Environmental Science Desiree DiMauro (ddimauro@fcps.edu)</p>
<p>Prerequisite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must have completed at least 2 lab sciences. ● Passed Algebra I and II, and Geometry, with a C average or better in all math classes. (Taking Algebra II concurrently?) ● Prior completion of another AP course or Geosystems is helpful, but not required. <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn, work and study independently ● Meet deadlines & turn in assignments on time ● Take effective notes during lectures ● Able to draw conclusions from data and a set of facts ● Compile and connect case studies to course material ● Analyze and interpret graphs ● Attend class and participate ● Confident in performance on standardized testing ● Equivalent to first year university course 	<p>Prerequisite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must have completed at least 2 lab sciences. ● Passed Algebra I and II, and Geometry, with a C average or better in all math classes. (Taking Algebra II concurrently?) ● Prior completion of another AP course or Geosystems is helpful, but not required <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn, work and study independently ● Meet deadlines & turn in assignments on time ● Take effective notes during lectures ● Able to draw conclusions from data and a set of facts ● Analyze and interpret graphs ● Attend class and participate, maintain good standing ● Able to work independently on lab projects and longer assignments outside of class ● Equivalent to first year university course