



AP Environmental Science (APES)

Why take this course?

1. Environmental science intertwines all the sciences (biology, earth science, chemistry, and physics) into one.
2. Environmental science offers "down to Earth" ways to be more environmentally friendly with your lifestyle.
3. The College Board has linked APES to 87 Careers and 36 college majors.
4. Like other AP classes, at the end of the semester, you will have the opportunity to take the AP Environmental Science test. With a high enough test score you could receive college credit for taking this course.

Course Topics Include:

- **Earth Systems and Resources** – the atmosphere, plate tectonics, weather vs. climate, soil, global water resource and use
- **The Living World** – ecosystem structure, energy flow, ecosystem diversity, natural ecosystem change, natural biogeochemical cycles
- **Population** – organisms and humans
- **Land and Water Use** – agriculture, forestry, rangelands, mining, fishing, global economics
- **Energy Resources and Consumption** – fossil fuel resources and use, nuclear energy, renewable energy
- **Pollution** – pollution types, impacts on the environment and human health
- **Global Change** – global warming

This course also participates in a three-part series with the Will County Forest Preserve District which includes a classroom visit and field experience at both Hammel Woods and Lake Renwick.

Examples of questions asked and answered in class:

- Will the Earth be able to support another 3 billion people in the next 30 years?
- Will countries ever run out of freshwater?
- What is your ecological footprint?
- What's happening to the rainforests?
- Why are sharks important to an ecosystem?