

Hanover Park Regional High School District
Whippany Park High School
165 Whippany Road
Whippany, NJ 07981

June 2011

Dear AP Environmental Science Student and Parent,

Please accept this letter as notification to each family regarding what will be expected of your son/daughter over the summer. It has become necessary to implement a summer assignment to fully prepare your child for the Advanced Placement Environmental Science Exam that will be administered on Monday May 7, 2012.

The A.P. exam is a highly rigorous exam that covers all of the material that would be covered in an introductory college Environmental Science course. It is designed for the student who is intending to major in a science in college or is highly motivated to accept the challenge of a college course at the high school level. The course represents a summation of college surveys from around the nation. These surveys have been used to design a course of study equivalent to the average first-year college course.

Due to the approach handed down by the colleges, each student will receive a text and a list of three chapters that are required summer readings. In addition they are also required to select and read a book from a list that will be provided to them as well as collect and review 5 current news articles related to environmental science. The 5 news articles are due on the first day of school September 8th, the three textbook chapters will be assessed on the second day of school September 9th, and the book review is due September 12th. It is critical that students become comfortable with this material to succeed throughout the year. A year-long research project will also be assigned in the fall of the year and presentations will be made after the AP Exam in May. Late assignments will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be recorded, this applies for the summer assignments as well as all assignments throughout the school year.

I look forward to working with both you and your student in the upcoming school year. Please feel free to email me at mstallone@hpreg.org if you have any questions. I will respond as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Megan Stallone

Megan Stallone
A.P. Environmental Science Teacher

APES
Summer 2011
Textbook Reading Assignment

Textbook: *Environment: The Science Behind The Stories*

Assignment

- Read Chapters 1,2 and 3
- Review the Testing Your Comprehension questions at the end of each chapter. These do not have to be written out and turned in. These questions will help you prepare for the **test on Friday, September 9, 2011.**
- Be prepared for a test on Friday, September 9.
- The test will consist of 30 multiple choice questions and 3 essays
- A Study Guide follows:

Study Guide - Test Prep

1. Explain the situation on Easter Island
2. Explain the tragedy of the commons
3. What is the EPA and how was it created?
4. Be sure to read the boxed essay's and the captions under the pictures, graphs and diagrams
5. Ecological footprint
6. Scientific method
7. Aim of environmental policy
8. Role of the United Nations in environmental policies
9. Know about the river in Mexico that was polluting the shores of the U.S.
10. When writing answers to essay questions, use scientific evidence and scientific concepts, leave out the emotional and political sides. Stick to science.

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Following is a list of books that are well known and pertain to this course. As we go through the course, you will find yourself thinking about what you read and relate it to what we are learning. Check the library for a copy of the book to check out or if you want to purchase it you can from almost any book store. For your summer assignment choose one of the books from this reading list and do the following assignment:

1. Write down the title, author and publisher of the book.
2. As you read you are going to keep a journal of what you read. Your total journal should be 2-3 pages long. Include new information you've learned and what it means to you.
3. Lastly, write a one-page summary about how you felt about the book, was it a good book? Would you recommend it to others? What information affected you the most? How do you think it will relate to this course?
4. Each student will give a 2 minute oral presentation which summarizes their book. Presentations will be on 9/12 and 9/13.

**This assignment will be due on Monday, September 12, 2011.
(late work will not be accepted)**

Each student must read a different book from the list Email me early so I can assign you your book of choice, one book per student per class only. My email address is : mstallone@hpreg.org if you have any questions. I will respond as quickly as possible.

*Rating System is based on 4 stars by previous students: * = good; * = not so good*

1. *A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr; 1995.* Covers the battle between parents whose children have afflicted with leukemia as a result, presumably, of industry dumping of solvents into local waters. (****)
2. *A Sand Country Almanac by Aldo Leopold, 1949.* This seminal work relates the beauty of the seasons in middle America and the shares Leopold's awe of nature.
3. *Beyond Malthus by Lester Brown, 1999.* Brown, as president of World Watch Institute, presents the burden that overpopulation has on Earth's resources and its ability to sustain that population.
4. *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water by Marc Reisner, 1986.* This author presents the history of water development in California – the real story that was partially presented in the film "Chinatown".
5. *Coal River by Michael Shnayerson, 2008.* Covers the last 10 years of battling mountain-top removal coal mining in Appalachia and the brave individuals willing to stand up for their beloved mountains. (****)
6. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared Diamond, 2005.* Diamond examines why ancient societies, including the Anasazi of the American

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Southwest and the Viking colonies of Greenland, as well as modern ones such as Rwanda, have fallen apart, sometimes due to disregard for their environment.

7. *Cradle-to-Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* by William McDonough and Michael Braungart, 2002. These authors present a new way to make products. Rather than the cradle-to-grave mentality where things end up in landfills, we need to rethink and develop new ways so that out-dated products are used for new things. (****)
8. *Crimes Against Nature: How George W. Bush and His Corporate Pals Are Plundering the Country and Hijacking Our Democracy* by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. 2005. This is a harsh indictment of what Kennedy sees as the Bush administration's assault on the environment and democracy in general. (****)
9. *Death in the Marsh* by Tom Harris, 1991. This is an expose of California's San Joaquin Valley farmers dumping selenium-tainted runoff into the Kesterton National Wildlife Refuge, causing a startling number of malformations and deaths among the waterfowl.
10. *Earth in Mind: On Education, Environment, and the Human Prospect* by David Orr, 2004. Much of what has gone wrong with the world, according Orr, is the result of inadequate and misdirected education that: alienates us from life in the name of human domination; causes students to worry about how to make a living before they know who they are; overemphasizes success and careers; separates feeling from intellect and the practical from the theoretical; deadens the sense of wonder for the created world. (****)
11. *Earth in the Balance* by Al Gore, 1992. This book he first describes the plagues hoisted onto our environment; the second looks at how we got ourselves into this mess; and in the final chapters the book presents ways out.
12. *Eco Warriors: Understanding the Radical Environmental Movement* by Rik Scarce, 2005. This book discusses the radical fringe elements of environmentalism, who they are and what motivates them.
13. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Jared Diamond, 2005. Diamond studies a number of cultures to determine who got ahead and why. (****)
14. *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv, 2008. "Gathering thoughts from parents, teachers, researchers, environmentalists and other concerned parties, Louv argues for a return to an awareness of and appreciation for the natural world."
15. *Let the Mountains Talk, Let the Rivers Run: A Call to Save the Earth* by David Brower, Amory Lovins, and Steve Chapple, 2007. Brower, as Sierra Club executive director in the 50's and 60's, recounts personal events and his call to protect the earth.

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16. *Life in Balance: Humanity and the Biodiversity Crisis* by Niles Eldredge, 1998. Eldredge maintains that the human conquest of nature is resulting in the sixth mass extinction of life on earth. But he also shows just how difficult it is to make holistic judgments in the face of individual need.
17. *Our Stolen Future: Are We Threatening Our Fertility, Intelligence, and Survival?-A Scientific Detective Story*, by Theo Colborn, Dianne Dumanoski, and John Peterson Myers, 1996. As an extension of *Silent Spring* (below) these authors offers evidence that synthetic chemicals may have upset our normal reproductive and developmental processes. (****)
18. *Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic* by Marla Cone, 2006. This book looks at how arctic people and mammals are being poisoning by air pollutants like mercury and pesticides as they are carried by air currents from developed regions of the world. (****)
19. *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, 1962. This important book was instrumental in starting the modern environmental movement in Carson's disclosure of the harm done by pesticides on our natural environment. ((****))
20. *Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered* by E.F. Schumacher, 1989.
21. *Small Wonder: Essays* by Barbara Kingsolver, 2003. Most of these essays were written in response to 9/11 and show Kingsolver's sensitivity and thoughtfulness, knowledge of and love for the natural world (****)
22. *The Burning Season* by Andrew Revkin, 1994. Revkin writes of Chico Mendes' fight to help protect the Amazon forest that his family has depended upon for their livelihood.
23. *The Diversity of Life* by E. O. Wilson, 2000. Wilson takes a sweeping view of our planet's natural richness, remarking on what on the surface seems a paradox: "almost all the species that ever lived are extinct, and yet more are alive today than at any time in the past." He argues for the need to protect this biodiversity.
24. *The Hydrogen Economy* by Jeremy Rifkin, 2003. In order to wean ourselves off of foreign oil, we need to develop hydrogen fuel to create a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable world. (****)
25. *The Future of Life* by E.O. Wilson, 2003. Wilson combines lyrical descriptions with dire warnings and remarkable stories of flora and fauna on the edge of extinction with hard economics. (****)
26. *The Solace of Open Spaces* by Gretel Ehrlich, 1986. Ehrlich writes with sensitivity and affection about people, the seasons and the landscape after she moves west to work on a ranch. (****)

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27. *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman, 2008. A look at what would happen to Earth if humans ceased to exist. Not only does Weisman examine human made structures but he also is perversely optimistic about the remaining life forms without human intervention.
28. *Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble* by Lester Brown, 2006. Our natural resources are being used at an unsustainable pace. Technologies are available, however, to solve our problems. (***)
29. *The Population Bomb* by Paul Ehrlich, 1968. Early account of the impact overpopulation is having on the planet.
30. *The Sixth Extinction : Patterns of Life and the Future of Humankind* by Richard E. Leakey and Roger Lewin, 1995. Claiming that humanity is on the verge of causing a massive extinction of other species, the authors argue for a drastic change in the ways in which we impact on the environment.
31. *Walden: Or, Life in the Woods* by Henry David Thoreau, 1854. This work has become a classic, beloved for its message of living simply and in harmony with nature. (***)
32. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan, 2006. Today, buffered by one food fad after another, America is suffering from what can only be described as a national eating disorder. Will it be fast food tonight, or something organic?
33. *Hot Zone* by Richard Preston.