Aloha Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome (back) to Kalāheo High School for a new and exciting school year! My name is Erich Smith and I will be your child’s AP Environmental Science (APES) teacher this year. I am excited to get to know your child as we explore every aspect of the world that surrounds us. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. I have taught science in Hawaii for the past twenty years. I like to employ a variety of hands on methods to motivate students to learn. I am very happy to be part of the Kalāheo ohana!

This AP course is aligned with the College Board’s goals and course guidelines and is designed to prepare students for the AP Environmental Science exam in May 2020. Students who successfully complete the AP test are eligible to receive college credit for their work. Therefore, this course will be designed like most introductory college environmental science courses. The students will also be required to meet the General Learner Outcomes, which include, taking responsibility for their own learning, working well with others, thinking critically, producing high quality work, using effective communication, and using technology effectively and ethically.

This is a highly interactive course that will allow the students to learn about the world in which they live and how the choices they and other humans make can affect every aspect of their surroundings. As a laboratory course, it is important for everyone to carefully follow directions every time they are given. It is equally important for everyone to be on time and ready to learn each and every day. I will expect your child to bring all required supplies, to be respectful, and to work hard every day.

Kalāheo High School uses the JupiterGrades online grading program that provides 24-hour access to the students’ grades for each class throughout the school year. You will be able to access the online program by clicking on the ‘Jupiter Grades’ tab located on the school website at http://kalaheohigh.org/ or by going directly to http://jupitergrades.com. Please log in and update your e-mail address so that I may send you updates about your child’s progress and important reminders. If internet access is not available at home, be aware that students have access to computer labs on campus during lunch and after school.

Please read through the course description, outline, expectations, grading policy, and necessary supplies with your student. When finished, please complete the contact sheet and video permission form and send them back to school with your student. I am looking forward to the fun-filled, learning-intensive year ahead of us! Please feel free to contact me if you have ANY questions and/or concerns regarding your child’s learning and I hope to meet you at the Open House on Wednesday, August 14th.

Mahalo,

Mr. Erich Smith

305-0200 x227 esmith@kalaheohigh.k12.hi.us
**AP® Environmental Science**

Mr. Smith  
Kalāheo High School

**Course Prerequisites**

The minimal prerequisite for AP Environmental Science is successful completion of biology and chemistry. Any student who meets the prerequisites and is willing to challenge themselves and work hard may enroll in the course.

**Course Overview**

My strategy in presenting the course to students is to begin with an introduction in which we learn some of the language that is required for rich discussions about the environment. We will then discuss the earth and how it works as a system, leading into our units on ecology, specifically describing how organisms interact with their world. Our transition unit will be a discussion on human population. The remainder of the course is a detailed study of the impact of humans on different components of the biosphere.

**Text**  
*Environment: The Science Behind the Stories, 5th edition* by Jay Withgott and Matthew Laposata

**Course Outline**

*First Semester*

Unit 1: Earth as a System  
Unit 2: Evolution and Ecology  
Unit 3: Environmental Systems and Ethics  

**END OF QUARTER 1 ASSIGNMENTS**

Unit 4: Human Population and Environmental Policy  
Unit 5: Soil and Agriculture  
Unit 6: Biodiversity and Forests  

**END OF FIRST SEMESTER: FINAL EXAMINATION – APES Practice Exam**

*Second Semester*

Unit 7: Water and Toxicology  
Unit 8: Global Climate Change and Energy  

**APES Mock Exam**

**END OF QUARTER 3 ASSIGNMENTS**

Unit 9: Conventional and Renewable Energy  
Unit 10: Waste Management  
Unit 11: Minerals/Sustainable Solutions  
APES Review

**AP Environmental Science Exam** - Monday, May 11; 10th at noon.
Class Supplies

- Please bring a box of tissues, or a roll of paper towels for the lab in the first two weeks.
- Come to class with pen, paper, and a charged chromebook.
- Lab Donation of $5.00*

* The Science department has a need to purchase perishable items for labs that the department is not able to purchase before school begins or through purchase orders. In APES, these items include, but are not limited to, live plants, live organisms, food coloring, potting soil, and certain foods. The suggested lab donation will be collected during the first two weeks of school and will be used to fund the labs for this course. Your support is greatly appreciated! 😊

General Expectations

- **BE PROMPT**
  - Be in your seat and ready to participate before the bell!

- **BE PRODUCTIVE**
  - Bring ALL necessary class supplies each day
  - Put away all electronic devices (cell phones, etc.) **BEFORE** class starts
  - Stay on task and listen attentively

- **BE POLITE**
  - Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher, our class supplies, and all of our fish 😊!!!

- **BE HONEST**
  - Trust is essential in my class. The more trust we have, the better our class will be!

Ethical Standards

Cheating, copying, or plagiarizing any assignment from an outside source or from a fellow classmate at all will result in a zero. Do not put your friends in the position of receiving no credit for their hard work by asking them to copy their paper.

- **Plagiarism:** an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and/or thoughts of another author without authorization and without crediting the original author with the work.

Grading Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>30% - Formative Assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Daily assignments, quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>70% - Summative Assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Multiple choice and free response questions (FRQ's)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>- Labs</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
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Advanced Placement Program Policies

Grading:
Students may be allowed to correct summative assessments, including a rationale, to earn no more than 50% of the points incorrect within one week from the date of the assessment. These corrections must be scheduled and completed with the AP teacher during non-class time.

Late work:
Late work will only be accepted one class period after the date the assignment is due for students present on the due date. Late work will receive no more than 50% of the original credit for the assignment. Additionally,
- For an **excused** absence authorized by the attendance office (via pink readmit slip), the assignment will be due the day you return to school and eligible for full credit.
- For an **unexcused** absence, late work will not be accepted.

Classroom Expectations

1. Class begins even before the bell. You are expected to be in your assigned seat with supplies ready to go for the day (binder, Question of the day sheet, etc.). Read the agenda and start your Bellwork quickly and silently. You may use your notes for assistance but **NOT** your classmates. These questions will often show up on tests/quizzes.

2. **All supplies must be put away before you leave the classroom (including binders). Please do not leave a mess!**

3. **On designated lab days, you are required to come to class prepared in closed-toe shoes.** Wearing shoes is for your protection should any glassware accidentally fall on your feet. I will inform you in advance when your class will be having a lab, so you can plan accordingly to bring/wear shoes on that day. **You will not be able to participate in lab if you forget to wear shoes on your class’ designated lab day (for safety purposes).**

4. After labs, all equipment must be cleaned and returned to the location it was found, lab area wiped clean, and the sink cleared of debris. Failure to do any of the required tasks will result in a group detention with all lab members assigned to that particular table.

5. Each science room is equipped with a chemical shower and eyewash. These **must not** be used or tampered with unless you are directed to use them by a teacher during an emergency. If a student violates this rule, they will be referred to the Administration for disciplinary action. The student will also be responsible for payment of any damages that are a result of using this equipment inappropriately.

6. We are fortunate to be in a renovated classroom, so let’s keep it looking that way! Any student caught vandalizing school property will be responsible for removing the vandalism and subject to disciplinary action by the administration.

7. In the unfortunate event that you are absent, you will be able to make-up all the work that you missed if the absence is excused. This means you have obtained a re-admit slip from the office for your absence. You are responsible for checking with me to find out what you missed **during non-class time (recess, lunch, etc.).** Quizzes/Tests/Labs can only be made up before school and **ONLY** with an excused absence. **Alternate assessments** may be given for tests/labs that were missed. (Short answer/essay exam instead of multiple choice exam. Written papers instead of labs.)
8. All electronics (cell phones, iPods, etc.) must be put away during class time. According to the Kalaheo School Policy, the teacher shall confiscate any electronics not put away. Any confiscated items will be turned in to the office, and can only be picked up by a parent/guardian.

9. Swearing/Bullying will not be tolerated! It is disrespectful and creates a negative environment... when the room is filled with negativity, no one can learn properly!

Additional classroom behavioral expectations may be announced to the students in the classroom as needed.

CONSEQUENCES

If you choose to use inappropriate language or behavior the consequences are as follows:

1st offense → Verbal warning to student
2nd offense → Detention
3rd offense → Parent Contact and detention
4th offense → Referral to the office, parent contact, and possible parent shadowing

If at any time you have concerns or questions please e-mail me at esmith@kalaheohigh.k12.hi.us and I will get back to you as soon as possible!

***Please sign and return the following pages by Friday, August 10th! Mahalo! ☺***
Please sign and return to Mr. Smith by Monday, August 12th, 2018

PLEASE READ AND SIGN ALL OF THE SECTIONS BELOW

I have read and understand the APES course syllabus.

___________________________________
Printed Name of Student

* ________________________________ Date

Student Signature

* ________________________________ Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

I have read and understand all of the lab safety guidelines detailed in the Kalaheo Laboratory Safety Guidelines contract. (These will be shared on Google Classroom and Jupiter Grades)

___________________________________
Printed Name of Student

* ________________________________ Date

Student Signature

* ________________________________ Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

We may periodically watch curriculum related movies that are PG or PG-13 rated (for example GATTACA). Check one of the following and sign.

_____ My child has permission to view PG and/or PG-13 movies in class.

_____ My child DOES NOT have permission to view PG and/or PG-13 movies in class.

* 

Parent or Guardian Signature