



**Course:** *Environmental Science*

**Date:** *August 2025 - May 2026*

**Teacher:** *L. Dowd*

**Contact information for your instructor:**

**E-Mail:** [liliana.dowd@morgan.k12.ga.us](mailto:liliana.dowd@morgan.k12.ga.us)

**Website:** [bit.ly/Dowdsite](http://bit.ly/Dowdsite)

**Course Description:**

The Environmental Science curriculum is designed to continue the student investigations that began in grades K-8. This curriculum includes performance, lab and field experiences. It integrates the study of many components of our environment, including the human impact on our planet and community. Chemistry, physics, mathematical, and technological concepts will be integrated throughout the course.

**Curriculum:**

The course is taught based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE), as prescribed by the Georgia Department of Education.

GSE are available for your consideration: <http://bit.ly/31Qj03d>

**Academic Objectives / Learning Targets :**

Students will identify/describe/evaluate

- Flow of energy and cycling of matter
- Earth's ecosystems
- Energy resources
- Natural resources
- Effects of human population growth on ecosystems

**Instructional Materials & Content:**

3 ring binder, paper, pencils, pens, Chromebook

Textbook: Living in the Environment, by G Tyler Miller, Jr. (I have a class set so you will not be required to check out a textbook from the library.)

Morgan County High School teachers are intentional in identifying engaging and differentiated learning and critical thinking opportunities to support course standards and learning goals. We respect a variety of diverse backgrounds in the classroom; accordingly, students can and should expect to participate in a sensitive, mutual exchange of ideas during informed classroom discussions, readings, and activities. Therefore, students may read and discuss course-specific or student-selected content in their academic courses that may contain mature or diverse opinions. Students will read and analyze works in a discrete and meaningful manner. Morgan County High School does not condone inappropriate or illicit behaviors. Rather, text selections are curated to promote an understanding of the world and the student's ability to think critically about—and approach—the problems of humanity.

### **Grading Practices & Policies**

50% Tests

30% Labs and projects

20% Daily grades to include classwork, quizzes and daily assignments

Final exam will count 20% of final grade for this course.

### **Final Exam & Exemption Policy**

Final exams are required for all courses, even those with EOC assessments.

Students have an opportunity to exempt the final exam; guidelines are on the MCHS website and linked here:

<http://bit.ly/41bADka>

The number of absences for exemption consideration includes all absences, both excused and unexcused. While we understand that there are events that may warrant absences above the number for exemption status, we must maintain a consistent approach to the expectation for absences allowed in order to be fair to all students. Know, too, that the final exam is an opportunity for students to sit for a comprehensive exam and familiarize themselves with this experience prior to post-secondary experiences.

### **Policies & Classroom Expectations:**

- Be respectful of one another
  - Be responsible
- Be on time and ready to learn
  - Clean up after yourself

I adhere to school rules as outlined in the student handbook: <http://bit.ly/454IwJq>

Cell phones: Cell phones must be put away at all times. Students who choose to keep their phone and use it without permission will have their phone confiscated for the period and a change report filed.

Tutoring: I am available most days after school, during lunch, and by appointment.

Test revisions: All students are given the opportunity to earn back points missed on tests. In order to do so, they must make revisions on the original test. Revisions work like this: 1.) For any incorrect answer on the original test, you will write out the question, 2.) then write the correct answer (if multiple choice, write out the entire answer), and 3.) write an explanation as to why the answer is correct. Corrections will be handwritten on a separate sheet of paper. Completed test corrections will earn the student half of the points that were originally missed.

Absences: If you are absent, check Google Classroom for the day's assignments.

Consequences for breaking class policies range from verbal warnings, change reports, call/email home, and referrals.

### **Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to complete and submit assignments that represent their own work. If any student has a question about expectations for submission of group work or research, please ask me! I will provide answers and make sure you understand what is acceptable.

Policy: <http://bit.ly/4o9ndz2>

**\*Any event of academic dishonesty will result in the student not being able to exempt their final.**

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.**

**Sincerely,**  
*Liliana Dowd*

We have read and understand the expectations outlined in the syllabus for Environmental Science and Mrs. Dowd's classroom expectations.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

**Student name & Signature:**

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(Please print legibly)

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(Signature)