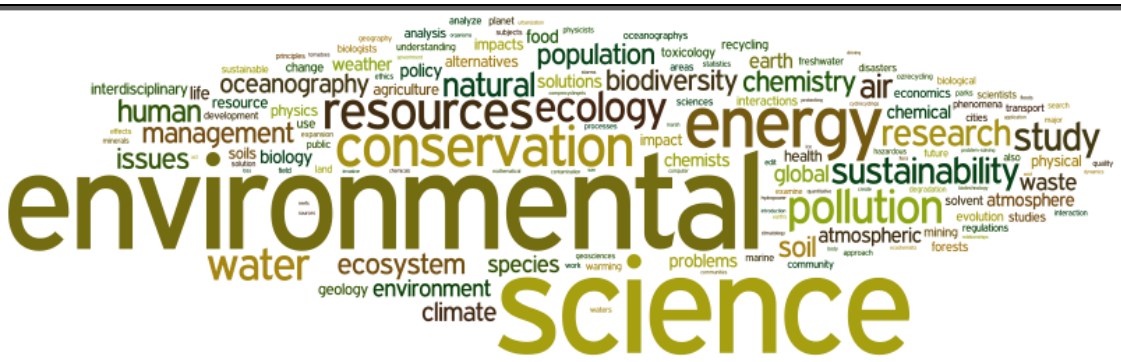
AP



Questions? Contact Mrs. Buskey at dawn.buskey@lcps.org or Ms. Ginn at whitney.ginn@lcps.org

- Equivalent to a 1 semester college laboratory science course
- Part of the *Earth Science* discipline, so helps meet the 4-3-2 requirement for an advanced diploma (4 years of science, in 3 *different* disciplines, passing 2 SOL exams)
- May earn college credit with an AP exam score of 3, 4, or 5
- Students should have *successfully* completed two years of high school science, including biology

Main Themes in AP Environmental Science:

- Science is a process
- Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes
- The Earth itself is one interconnected system
- Humans alter natural systems
- Environmental problems have a cultural and social context

Assignments:

- Frequent computer use outside of class expected
- Expect to read & discuss
- Many projects & labs
- Current events & case studies

Assessments:

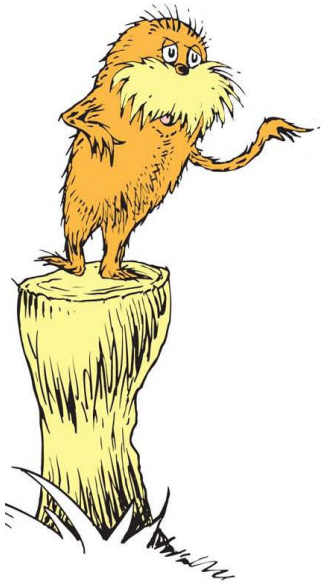
- Frequent quizzes
- Group labs & projects
- Individual work & projects
- Tests timed & modeled after the AP exam

Workload:

- Expect a college-level workload
- Expect homework every day
- Expect a lot of vocabulary
- Expect a pre-course summer assignment

AP Exam:

- Given in May, 3 hours long
- 100 multiple choice
- 4 open ended questions, including 1 data analysis, 1 DBQ, and 2 essays



Description of AP Environmental Science from the College Board:

APES is designed to be the equivalent of an **introductory college** course in Environmental Science. The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, and to evaluate the risks associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. This course promotes environmental literacy so that you are better prepared to make decisions regarding issues that impact the environment and society. Additionally, this course will help establish and build a sense of stewardship for the environment and an understanding of sustainability principles that include social and economic factors in addition to environmental ones. The course encompasses **biodiversity, human population dynamics, interrelationships in nature, energy flow, matter cycling, natural resources, agriculture, pollution & environmental quality, human impact on environmental systems,** and **environmental law & history**.