**Ridgeview High School**

**Mr. Tyler Mullins**

**Room 301**

**Contact Information:**

* Phone: School- (276) 835-1600
* Email: tmmullins@dcps.k12.va.us
* Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:40AM-11:10AM

 \*or by appointment

\*I can also be reached by email outside of normal office hours between 4PM-7PM Monday-Friday

**Course Description:**

* In this course, students will learn and explore the fundamentals of the field of ecology. Topics covered will include an introduction to the field of ecology, population and community ecology, various ecological biomes, the impact of humans on the ecosystem, and matter and energy flow within an ecosystem. In the second half of the course, students will focus on conservation efforts and how those efforts affect wildlife and outdoor recreation. Students will also learn about the specific concerns and challenges facing the ecosystems in the Middle Appalachian region. This course does not have an End of Course (E.O.C.) exam, but there will be a final exam given.

**Course Objectives (Standards of Learning):**

* BIO.1 The student will demonstrate an understanding of scientific and engineering practices.
* BIO.2 The student will investigate and understand that chemical and biochemical processes are essential for life.
* BIO.7 The student will investigate and understand that populations change through time.
* BIO.8 The student will investigate and understand that there are dynamic equilibria within populations, communities, and ecosystems.
* Students will investigate and explore the ecological processes and ecosystems specific to the Middle Appalachian region.
* Students will investigate and explore conservation efforts and how those efforts affect the wildlife and recreation efforts of the Middle Appalachian region.

**Texts:**

* Nowicki, Stephen. (2013). *Biology*. Orlando, Florida: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
* Anama-Green, Chris and Doss, Carol W., (2021). *Teach the Clinch 2.0*. Clinch River Valley Initiative, Inc.
* Various supplemental texts as necessary

**Class Expectations:**

* Be respectful of others
* Give your full attention during class
* Give your best effort every day
* Actively participate during class
* Turn in assignments on time
* Be prepared for class each day
* Take responsibility for yourself and your work
* Keep your cell phone put away in holder during class
* Bring your Chromebook to class everyday
* Follow all school safety rules and procedures
* Follow all lab safety rules and procedures
* Do not be afraid to ask questions

 **Class Procedures:**

* Beginning class:
	+ Use the first 5 minutes to answer the daily response question posted on the board
* Bathroom breaks:
	+ One boy and one girl will be allowed to take a bathroom break at a time. When those students return, another boy and girl will then be allowed to leave; students will be given one bathroom break per class; please try to limit bathroom breaks so instruction is not interrupted.
* Class dismissal:
	+ Students will remain in their seats until dismissed
	+ Students are dismissed from class by the teacher; not by the bell
* Online learning platforms:
	+ Students will use Google Classroom throughout the semester for various assignments, but they may not be used on a daily basis.
	+ I will provide instructions as to when we will use Google Classroom.
	+ Please bring your Chromebook to class every day!
* Homework/Daily Assignments:
	+ Classwork and homework assignments will be submitted on paper or online depending on the specific assignment
	+ Assignments must be turned in by the due date to receive full credit unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher
	+ Assignments submitted late will have 5 points deducted for each day late
	+ Assignments turned in more than 5 days late will not be accepted, and a zero will be given for the assignment
* Make-up work/Missed class:
	+ If students are unable to attend class during the regular class period, they should contact the teacher to develop a plan to make up the lesson. It is the student’s responsibility to contact me about make-up assignments.
	+ Students will have up to 5 days to turn in missed assignments
	+ Assignments turned in after 5 days will not be accepted, and a zero will be given for the assignment
* Lab safety precautions:
	+ Follow all safety rules and regulations while in the lab area.
	+ Students should handle all lab equipment and materials with care.
	+ Students should be familiar with the emergency eye wash station and shower and where to locate the first aid kit and fire extinguisher.
	+ Food and drinks are strictly forbidden in the lab area.
	+ Horseplay is strictly forbidden in the lab area.
	+ Always be conscious of what you are doing in the lab and follow all instructions closely!
	+ Always clean up the lab area and equipment after completing lab work.

**Electronic Devices Policy:**

* **Cell phones should be turned off and put in the class holder during class without any exception.**
* Students may possess or use personal electronic devices on school property, on school buses, or at school-sponsored events according to the following guidelines:
	+ Before school until the beginning of the school day
	+ During a student's lunch period
	+ During class changes
	+ After school
* Cell phones or other personal electronic devices with earphones, ear pods, and headsets must be turned off or silenced and stored out of sight during the entire instructional block in classrooms except where deemed medically necessary by the school administrator.
* Any cell phone or other personal electronic device that rings or vibrates at a prohibited time or location is considered in use and will be considered a violation of this policy.
* Violating the cell phone policy in school policy will result in the following consequences:
	+ Classroom- Teacher warning
	+ 1st Offense: Office warning
	+ 2nd Offense: 1 day ISS \*Phone is left in office
	+ 3rd Offense: 2 days ISS \*Phone is left in office
	+ 4th Offense: 1 day OSS
	+ 5th Offense: Disciplinary Committee
* Personal electronic devices may not be used to cause any disruption in the educational process or for unethical or illegal purposes. Prohibited uses include, but are not limited to:
	+ Cheating on assignments and/or tests,
	+ Harassing or bullying others,
	+ Taking or distributing unauthorized photographs or recordings of other people
	+ Personal electronic devices may not be used to access any obscene, threatening or otherwise inappropriate material via any form of electronic communication.
	+ Live streaming or social media posting during the school day is not allowed.

**Materials:**

* Pen or pencil
* Notebook dedicated solely to this class
* 3 ring binder

**Attendance:**

* Daily attendance is required and expected. Students are responsible for making up all work that is missed due to an absence. Please refer to the student handbook for the DCPS attendance policy. Students should turn in an excuse for absences. Each unexcused absence will reduce the nine-weeks average by one point. Three unexcused tardies or check-outs will reduce the student’s nine-weeks average by one point.

**Grading:**

* Final grades will be determined as follows:
	+ Exams/quizzes: 25% of each grading period
	+ Participation: 20% of each grading period
	+ Homework: 40% of each grading period
	+ Notebook: 15% of each grading period
* Grading scale:
	+ 90—100=A
	+ 80—89=B
	+ 70—79=C
	+ 60—69=D
	+ 59 or below=F

**Course Outline:**

1. Introduction to Ecology
2. Population Ecology
3. Community Ecology
4. Ecosystems: Energy Flow and the Recycling of Matter
5. Biomes
6. Human Impact on the Environment
7. Wildlife and Conservation
8. Recreation and Conservation
9. The Middle Appalachians